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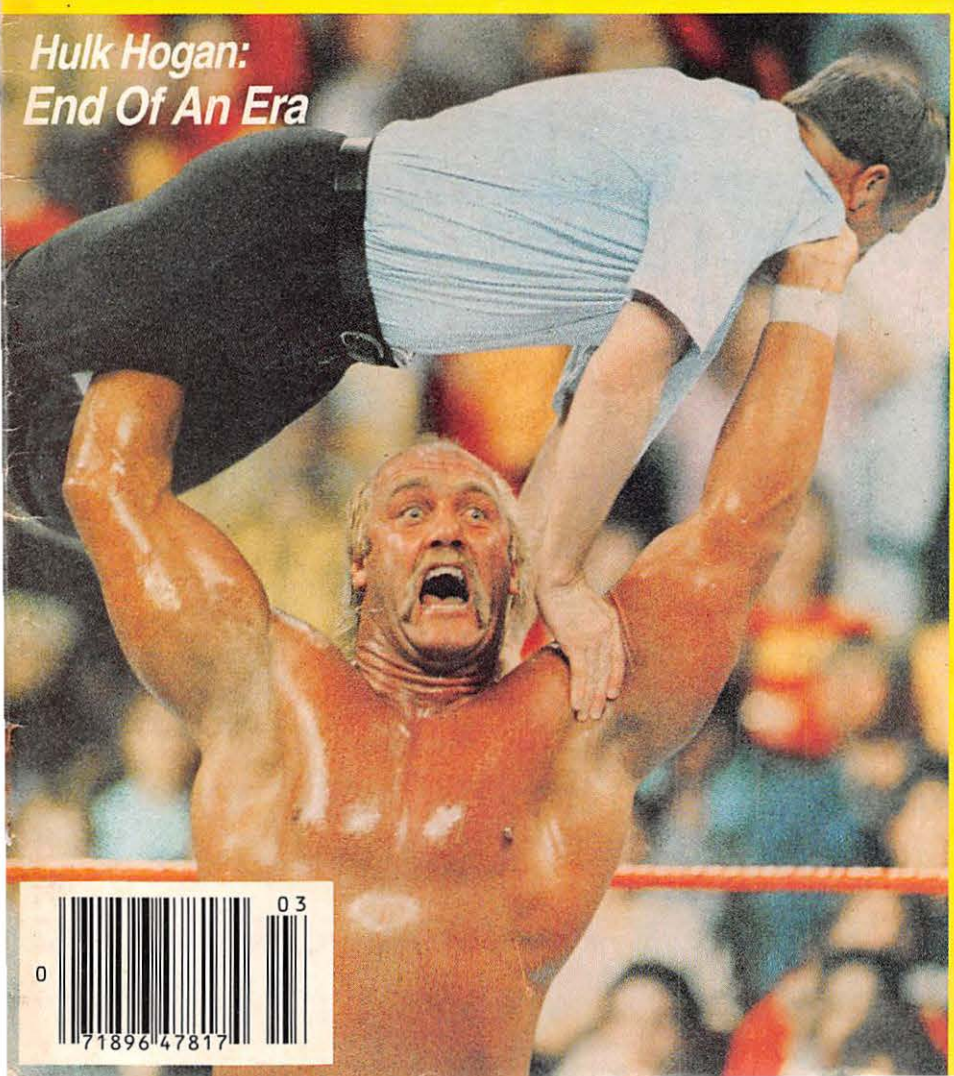

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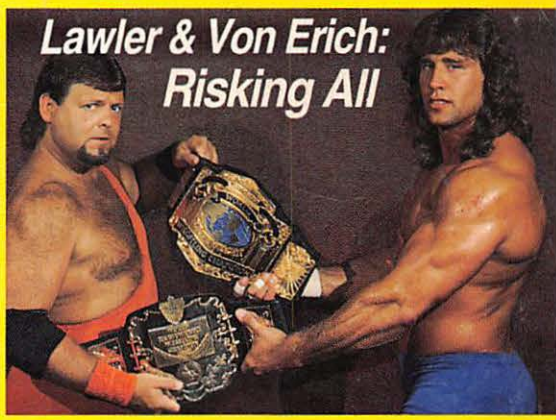

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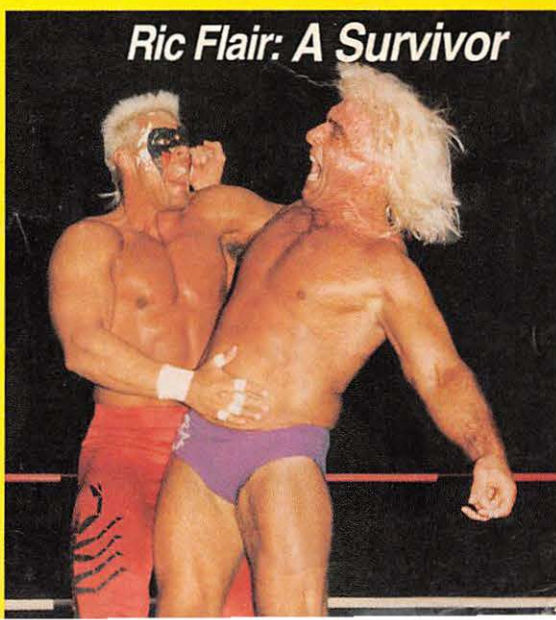

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FANS AREN'T DUMB

An open letter to Vince McMahon:

I think it's great the way you consistently acquire "new, raw talent" for the WWF, and expose these great wrestlers to the world "for the first time." Just look at the list of impressive grapplers you have obtained during your tenure as head of the WWF:

There's The Powers of Pain, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, Curt Hennig, Terry Taylor, Randy Savage, Ted DiBiase—for starters. By now, you get my point.

Come on, Vince! Recognize the pasts of the many great wrestlers in the WWF! So what if some of the accomplishments of these fine wrestlers happened elsewhere? Does that somehow cheapen their accomplishments in the WWF? Does that somehow degrade their mere presence in the WWF? No, both times!

Vince, the fans aren't as stupid as you wish they'd be.

HERMAN REDDING
San Francisco

GIVE COX MORE CREDIT

You guys at *Sports Review Wrestling* always have excellent coverage of all my favorite wrestlers, but there is one wrestler I rarely hear about. That man is Steve Cox.

Steve is a great wrestler, and he proves it every time he steps into the ring. I love it when he and Michael Hayes beat the crap out of Buddy Roberts and his Samoan Swat Team! Steve has the looks and talent to go far in wrestling. With Michael "P.S." Hayes as his partner, things can only get better for this gorgeous young star.

Michael Hayes and Steve Cox teamed up to win the World Class tag team title, which they later lost to the Samoan Swat Team. Reader Nikki Otto is a big Steve Cox fan.

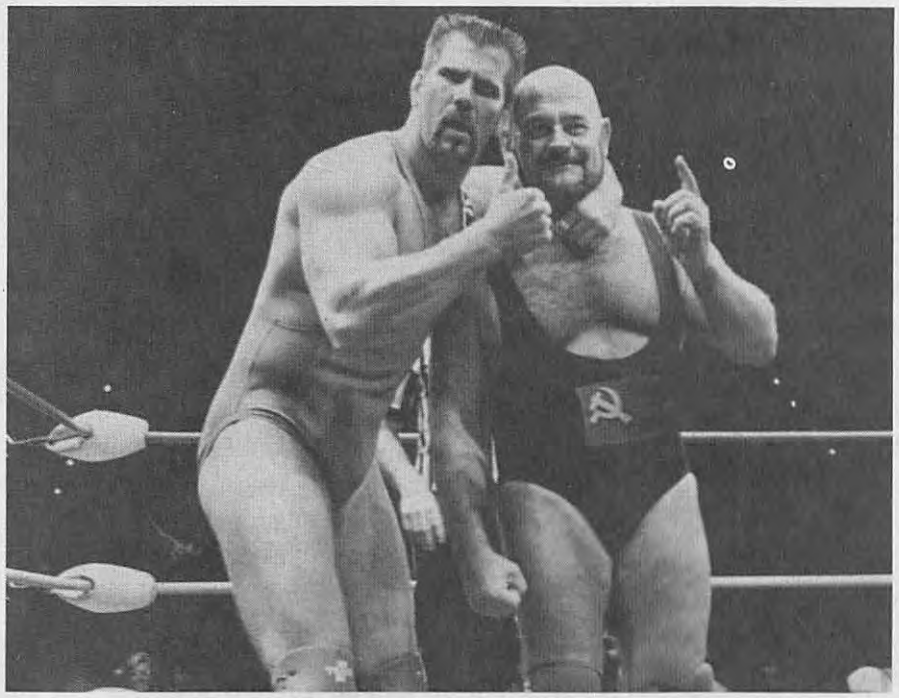
Please do a story on Steve Cox. He deserves it more than anyone I can think of.

NIKKI OTTO
Lampasas, TX

GENEROSITY ABOUNDS

I would like to say something about the most sensational wrestler of the '80s, the "Russian Nightmare," Nikita Koloff.

I just want to say that it was a



After nearly two years apart, Nikita and Ivan Koloff are back together again. Reader Andy Robbins respects Nikita for accepting his uncle's hand in friendship.

generous act for Nikita to accept his uncle Ivan's hand in friendship after all the wars they've been through in the last few years. I would definitely give a double "thumbs up" to Nikita.

The same thing applies to "Macho Man" Randy Savage for lending Hercules a helping hand. Without it, Hercules might have become Ted DiBiase's slave!

All in all, these generous acts should not be overlooked.

ANDY ROBBINS
Panama City, FL

UNACKNOWLEDGED ABILITY

The Powers of Pain have been accused of lacking wrestling ability. This is a sad accusation. Jesse Ventura calls them "street fighters" with no talent at all. Yeah, right!

Barbarian, as some fans might know, has been wrestling for more than six years. He has tremendous talent, that's for sure. If anybody has noticed, he's also skilled in the martial arts. His front-kick is fast and devastating. Barbarian has also shown a great amount of strength. He's impressed me a lot, and I'm sure he'll continue to impress the wrestling world.

Warlord, although he's still learning, is also a great wrestler. With Barbarian as his partner, he'll learn plenty. But don't forget, Warlord was a top candidate for Most Improved Wrestler of 1988. He has proven strength and endurance. In addition, he has a vast repertoire of suplexes.

These two brutal men will go far in the WWF, if their triumph at the Survivor Series is any indication. With Mr. Fuji as their manager, they'll capture the WWF tag team championship soon and prove that they're not just Road Warrior imitators.

HIM-CHENG WANG
Lexington, MA

REF BASHING

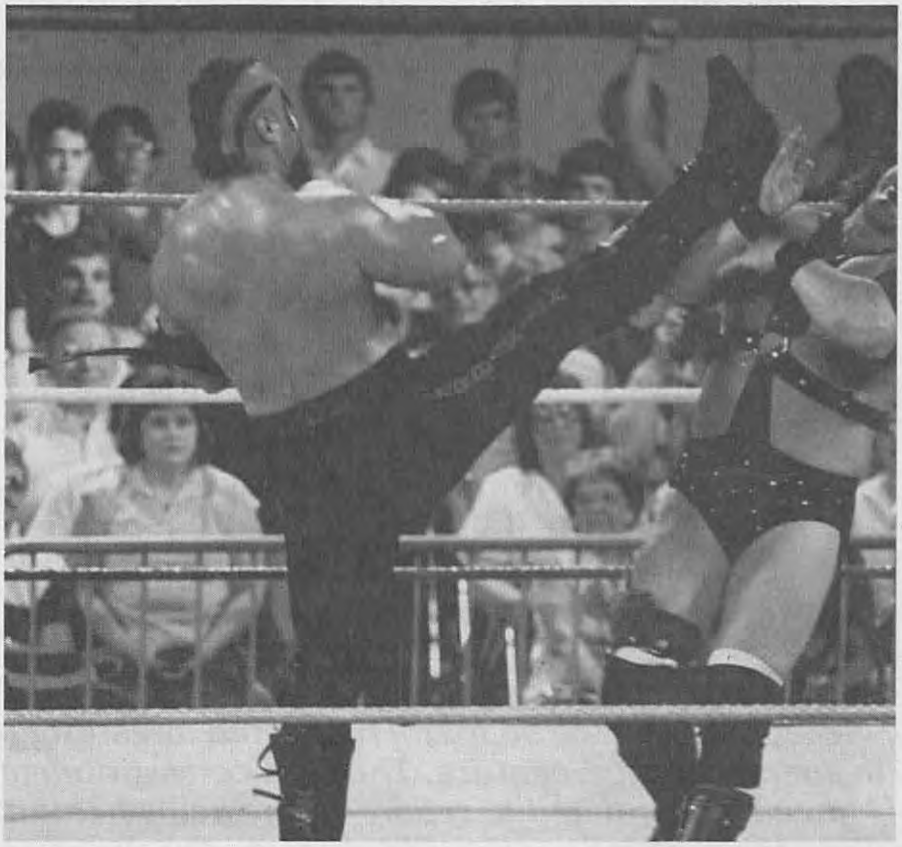
I'm a great fan of *Sports Review Wrestling*. It's tantalizing cover and informative articles blow away other magazines. I get a copy every month. Your December 1988 issue surpassed my expectations for excellence.

In that issue, you ran an article entitled, *"Sports Review* Editor Is Referee For A Night: 'It's Not As Easy As It Looks'," by Bob Smith. While I agree with Mr. Smith on most of his article, I feel I must point out the flip side.

True, referees have a difficult time keeping order in the ring, but I'm sure anyone who watches wrestling has noticed one thing: most referees are bloody wimps!

You figure it: In matches I've seen,

(Continued on page 54)



Barbarian whacks Demolition Smash in the jaw with a high karate kick. In Him-Cheng Wang's opinion, The Powers of Pain are skilled wrestlers, despite what Jesse Ventura says.

THE TATTLER

SAVAGE, ELIZABETH, & HOGAN

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RICHFIELD, OH: The Megapowers alliance between WWF World champion Randy Savage and former champ Hulk Hogan may have fallen apart entirely at The Survivor Series.

Savage refused to speak with Hogan in the dressing room after their come-from-behind victory on Thanksgiving Day and it appears the coolness between the two friends stemmed from an incident at the end of the main event.

As Savage desperately tried to escape a Big Bossman bearhug, Slick grabbed Elizabeth and tried to drag her back to the dressing room. Hogan came to her rescue, but after slugging Slick, he was attacked from behind by Bossman and Akeem. Meanwhile, the "Macho Man" tried to fend off an attack by Haku, who had never tagged in.

After Bossman was counted out, he handcuffed Hogan to the bottom rope and, with Akeem, continued to punish the "Hulkster." Bossman and Akeem climbed into the ring to join Haku in a three-on-one attack on Savage, causing Akeem's disqualification. By this time, however, Savage was severely weakened and Hogan was helpless to tag in.

Slick then climbed on to the ring apron to hold Savage. But as Haku delivered what would have been a finishing punch, Hogan ducked. Haku instead hit Slick, who fell to the mat. When Bobby Heenan at-

(Continued on page 68)

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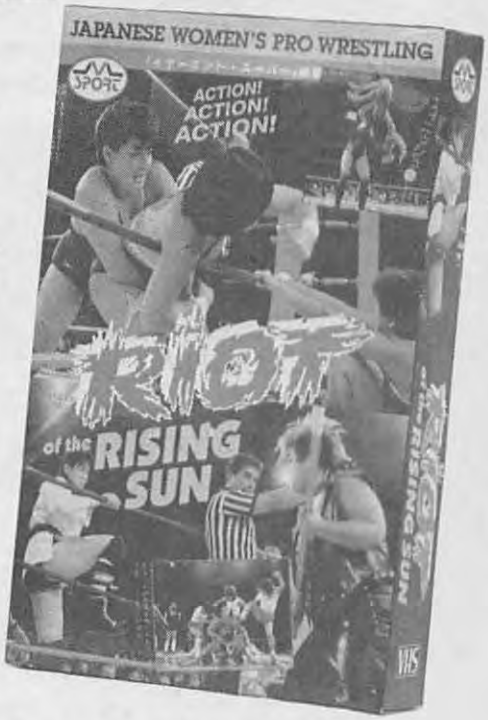

Slant-Eyed Slaughter

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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STRAIGHT talk with EDDIE ELLNER

LIA MAIVIA

In an era dominated by *promoters gigantus*—**Vince McMahon, Jim Crockett, Don King**—the Promoter of the Month award goes to Honolulu's **John Wakayama**. Despite his involvement as the alleged victim and chief witness in the extortion trial of **Lia Maivia** and **Lars Anderson** (Maivia and Anderson allegedly extorted $5,000 in "tribute" from Wakayama, threatening the promoter's family with assorted acts of violence he sang to the authorities), Wakayama compiled the best wrestling card to hit these shores in some time.

LARS ANDERSON

The main event, featuring **Terry Funk** and **Dory Funk Jr.** against **Stan Hansen** and **Terry Gordy**, was of special interest to me. Dory was a "veteran grappler" when I was in junior high school 15 years ago; Terry has retired from active competition more times than **Sugar Ray Leonard**. Gordy and Hansen are monsters stuck in a perpetual destruction mode. It appeared to be a mismatch perpetrated by an inexperienced promoter anxious to sign "big names."

STAN HANSEN

TERRY GORDY

The match, however, ended in an exciting double-countout, which lends credence to the theory that old NWA World champions never die, they simply get disqualified. Also appearing on Wakayama's card were **Dan (Oh Where, Oh Where Did My Career Go?) Spivey**, who fought to a double-disqualification against **Tommy (See Above Theory) Rich**, and **Ric Flair**, a pinfall victor over **Ric Steiner**.

HARLEY RACE vs. HULK HOGAN

He's wrestled hurt the past few years and never achieved the megastar status his record deserves, but seven-time NWA World champion **Harley Race** has aged a lot better than some of the paunchy, cueball-headed ex-classmates I saw last month at my 10-year high school reunion. That includes the shining dome of attorney **Mitchell Reiver**, who embraced the ethics of his profession in eighth grade when he stole a collection of classic *Wrestling Revues* from my room. (Incidentally, a columnist's use of names and characters unknown to his readership is a practice I condemn. But I have waited 14 years to vilify my ungracefully aging "buddy," and could hardly pass up this opportunity. It won't happen again, I assure you).

●

You must admit, watching the new and improved **Road Warriors** is like being strapped to the speakers during a **Guns N' Roses** concert.

I can see **Kendall Windham** commanding

respect as an auditor for the Internal Revenue Service, but as a man making a living with his fists, I'm sorry.

Now that initial-crazy **Ted Turner** has added the NWA to CNN, TNT, and TBS, will he attempt

DUSTY RHODES

to colorize **Dusty Rhodes'** mysterious midsection splotch?

The implications of the Turner buy are at once exciting and foreboding. Will he invest in the right talent in and out of the ring? Will pro wrestling become part of **The Goodwill Games**? Will Turner triumph as he did years ago in the **America's Cup**, or will the NWA be misplaced and ignored in the giant Turner conglomerate and become another **Atlanta Braves**?

Notre Dame has been my favorite college team since grade school, but their decision to avoid a rematch with the **University of Miami** for the national championship reminds me of **Hulk Hogan's** unwillingness to grant **David Shultz** and **Bob Backlund** title shots when he was champion. In both cases, the operative word is *fear.*

Since balding, aging, over-the-hill people is the theme running through this month's column, I want to mention that, at last count, photographer/weeble **Bill Apter** had 915 strands of hair remaining atop his head, a decrease of 17 follicles since the last tally. This count was taken while Bill dropped into a sugar coma after knocking off a bag of **chocolate reindeer** for lunch. Look for a hair and scalp update next month.

Speaking of the animal kingdom, and, for that matter, far-reaching literary allusions, imagine if **George Orwell** had been a wrestling fan. *Animal Farm* might have included a panda(ring) bear, **Barry Windham**; a cowardly lion, **Ric Flair**; a garbage-eating hog, **Abdullah the Butcher**; and a sasquatch, **Andre, The Giant Idiot**.

After a while, "unlimited potential" comes to mean "incapable of winning the big one," a label I will gladly hang on **Sting** and **Lex Luger** if they both don't capture major titles by year's end.

Don't you sometimes wish, for his sake and ours, **Fritz Von Erich** had

FRITZ VON ERICH

taken up bowling?

It took close to three hours, but by the end of the WWF's latest **Survivor Series** it became clear that **Hulk Hogan** and **Randy Savage** will not be exchanging Christmas cards this year. The look Savage fixed on his "pal" when he awoke to find Hogan victoriously parading **Elizabeth** on his shoulders around the ring was of sufficient venom to melt **Big Bossman's** handcuffs. It's a solid bet these two will articulate their differences in an appropriate setting—say, center ring at WrestleMania V?

BILL APTER

This month's liposuction standings read: 1—**Abdullah the Butcher** (breasts and stomach); 2—**Andre The Giant Idiot** (legs and forehead); 3—**The Executioner** (hips and buttocks); 4—**King Kong Bundy** (neck and head); 5—**Kamala The Ugandan Giant** (cheeks and nose).

ABDULLAH

Ratings Analysis: The Butcher's lock on the top spot is in danger with the announcement he's begun eating raw, *free-range* chicken with 25 percent less fat . . . The Executioner, a preliminary grappler from south Florida, is a major-leaguer when it comes to dining, consuming upwards of 15 Big Macs in a single sitting . . . With the opening of four **Dairy Queens** in the CWA area, look for **Phil Hickerson** to make a major move into next month's ratings.

If you feel the urge, you may write to me (no crayons, please) at the following address: "Straight Talk," Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

[Editor's note: The outrageous views of Eddie Ellner are his alone. They represent those of no one else, at least no one who would ever admit it.] □

LOCKER ROOM Confidential

with Bill Apter

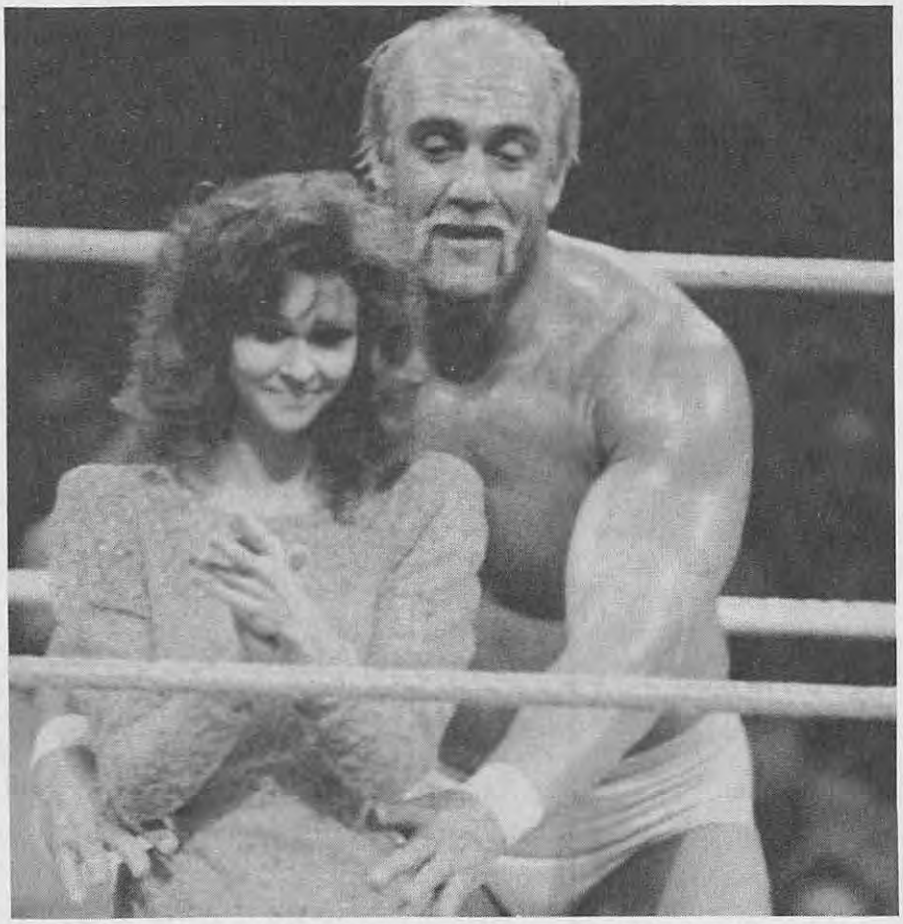
"TEAM MEMBERS AND Working Press Only" read the signs on the locker room doors at the Baltimore Arena, and those signs never have more meaning than during a pro wrestling card.

At the Baltimore Arena, which is used predominately for minor league hockey and indoor soccer, there are two locker rooms: one for the home team, one for the visiting team. When the NWA or WWF is using the Arena, one room is used by the fan favorites and the other is used by the rule-breakers; they can be reached by separate hallways and are well-guarded at all times before, during, and after a card.

To enter the locker room, you must be either a wrestler, manager, trainer, official of the NWA or WWF, or a member of the working press that has been granted credentials. To say that you work for a wrestling magazine isn't enough; the guidelines for locker room access in wrestling are tougher than for any other sport.

I am fortunate. I have spent the past 19 years of my life as a wrestling journalist. For all of those 19 years, I have been able to gain access to locker rooms around the world, and have spoken with almost every man that has stepped into the ring over that period, from Bruno Sammartino to Lou Thesz to Verne Gagne to Ric Flair to Hulk Hogan.

This column will, in the months to come, be about the wrestlers that make this sport what it is. I believe that I have built up a trust with these athletes that lets them tell me things they wouldn't tell any other reporter. They know that when they tell me something "off the record," it *stays* off the record. And when they want something reported, they know I'll report it fairly. For this reason, they speak more honestly with me.



Hulk Hogan sneaks up on Elizabeth in order to lift her up in celebration. Bill Apter reports that Hogan is happily married and has no romantic interest in Randy Savage's manager.

For example,did you know that...

... Dusty Rhodes' biggest desire right now isn't to avenge The Road Warriors or beat Ric Flair for his fourth NWA World title; it's to be sitting at ringside when his son Dustin captures his first NWA World championship? Dusty and Dustin would then be only the second father-and-son duo to win singles world titles (Fritz and Kerry Von Erich are the first, with AWA and NWA reigns respectively).

... Hulk Hogan has no romantic interest in Elizabeth, although it sometimes looks that way? The "Hulkster" has a wife and a seven-month-old daughter he loves dearly. He does, however, think highly of Elizabeth's managerial and administrative abilities; he also thinks she's an inspiration to have at ringside.

... Jerry Lawler was happier

(Continued on page 66)

Jealousy In The WWF: WHY EVERYONE IS OUT TO GET TED DiBIASE
SUPERCARD '87
FULL-COLOR COVERAGE OF 1987's GREATEST SHOWS
LEX APPEAL! The Complete Package Unwrapped
1987 THE YEAR IN WRESTLI
HULK HOGAN

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YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"Which is more important—speed or strength?"

Submitted by: Frederick Alonzo North Bergen, NJ

JEFF JARRETT

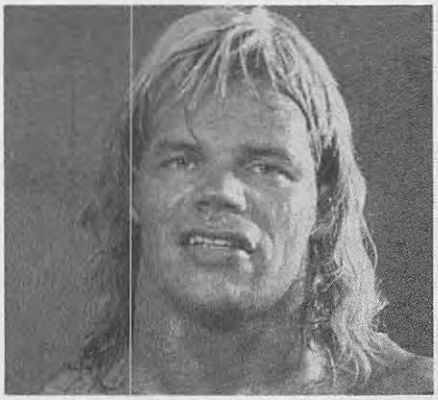
"Talk all you want about these guys who lift weights all day, but there's nothing like being able to move around the ring with speed. It's my best weapon because I know I can't match size with some of these big guys. When I use my speed, I keep my opponent off-guard and always guessing about what my next move will be. I've won a lot of matches against bigger men because of it."

MIKE ROTUNDO

"I would say they're both equally important. It depends on who you're in there with. If I'm wrestling a wimp like Randy Mulkey, I can easily overpower him. But if I'm up against a big man like Bam Bam Bigelow, I'll try to neutralize his power advantage by using quick maneuvers. Either way, I'm an expert at both styles, so I feel comfortable with both. But my opponents sure don't!"

ROBERT FULLER

"The first thing new recruits into the Stud Stable learn is that you have to know when to run and when to stand and fight. Of course, there were people like Brickhouse Brown and Cactus Jack who couldn't get that through their thick heads. They weren't willing to make the sacrifices it takes to win. That's why I dumped them. They weren't complete wrestlers, like Jimmy Golden and myself."



LEX LUGER

"You don't think they call me the 'Total Package' for nothing, do you? My unique blend of speed and terrific strength has brought me to the very pinnacle of this great sport, as Ric Flair is painfully finding out. So to answer your question, they're both important, though I would give a slight edge to power. On balance, the stronger athlete will be more successful than the faster man."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH

RON SIMMONS

"There's no denying that my great natural strength helps me a lot in the ring. I enjoy using bearhugs and power slams. Those are the kinds of moves that win you titles. I don't care how fast a man is, if he gets caught in a bearhug he's not going anywhere. The sport today is coming down to which man in that ring is the strongest, and that's a contest I'm almost always going to win."

BUDDY ROBERTS

"I teach my Samoan Swat Team they have to use speed and strength to win. Obviously they learned well because they're the World Class tag team champions. There isn't another team around that combines those skills the way my Samoans do. Samu is the power specialist and Fatu is quick as a cat, but they can each switch their assignments and be just as effective. That's why they're champs."

JIMMY VALIANT

"Whoo, baby, when the 'Boggie-Woogie Man' do his thing, you understand, when he do his thing like nobody else, he do it fast, real fast. Not half-fast, you know what I'm sayin', baby. I fought the biggest, baddest, toughest hombres in the world, daddy, and they can't keep up with boggie-woogie. When I get in a jam, brother, I just say 'Feets, don't fail me now.' That's the boogie way!"

COL. DeBEERS

"This is something I never had to think about, due to my God-given abilities in both areas. But I will say something that may surprise you. If I was given a choice between possessing strength and speed, I would choose speed. There are so many big, bulky lummoxes like Sgt. Slaughter today that a lightning-quick assault will knock those dunderheads right off their fat feet."

STEVE COX

"There's no substitute for speed. It's one attribute you're born with. You can hit the weights and build up your strength dramatically, but speed is something you either have or you don't. While I'll compliment my training with weightlifting, I realize I'm not going to succeed unless I use my speed to win matches. Achieving that balance between the two is the key."

MAKHAN SINGH

"Power—and lots of it—is all that matters, you idiot! Why should I worry about being fast? I can crush opponents with my bare hands! And in the rare case when I'm in there with a bigger man, I have more effective ways of winning than running around the ring like a fairy. The Singh empire is built on a foundation of physical domination, not speed. God, what a dumb question."

The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans. Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!

THE QUESTION:
"What was the most memorable moment in wrestling in 1988?"

THE ANSWERS:
Nigel Patterson, St. Louis: "I especially enjoyed it when Elizabeth distracted Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant at SummerSlam. Actually, only DiBiase was preoccupied; if you remember, Andre kept yelling for Ted to concentrate on what was going on in the ring. That incident just went to show that no matter how evil these men seemed, they could be distracted by the charms of a beautiful female, just like the rest of us."

Reed Ploshnick, Hawthorne, CA: "The most memorable—and the most outrageous—miscarriage of justice in 1988 was watching Lex Luger get the NWA World title taken away from him by some stupid official in Maryland. That belt was his! Ric Flair was a beaten man that night. There was no way he was gonna get out of Lex's backbreaker, then the match was stopped because Luger was bleeding! Give me a break! A match should *never* be halted because of blood!"

Billy Conteague, Olean, NY: "There were a whole series of memorable moments when Jerry Lawler and Kerry Von Erich had their AWA World title vs. World Class heavyweight title unification series. It's too bad that more federations don't follow their lead. Imagine the excitement of a Ric Flair-Randy Savage series! When two leagues pit themselves against one another, *everybody* wins."

Jerry Lawler puts the side headlock on Kerry Von Erich during one match in their AWA/World Class title-unification series. This ongoing feud was one of the most important events in wrestling in 1988.

Edwina Cleveland, Newport News, VA: "I'll never forget watching Hulk Hogan lose the WWF title to Andre the Giant. It was the end of Hulkamania, as far as I'm concerned. Sure, Hulk is back, but he'll never recapture that special magic he had for his glorious four-year reign. Although I'd like

(Continued on page 70)

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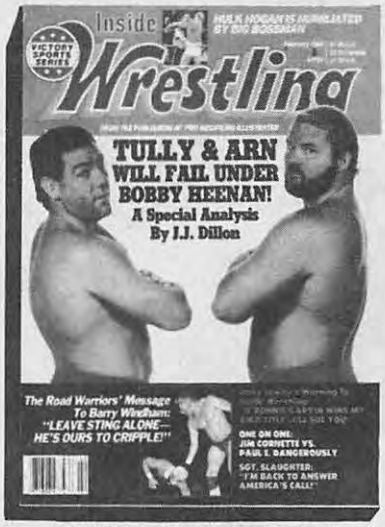
Inside Wrestling
TULLY & ARN WILL FAIL UNDER BOBBY HEENAN!
A Special Analysis By J.J. Dillon
The Road Warriors' Message To Barry Windham: "LEAVE STING ALONE— HE'S OURS TO CRIPPLE!"
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SGT. SLAUGHTER: "I'M BACK TO ANSWER AMERICA'S CALL!"

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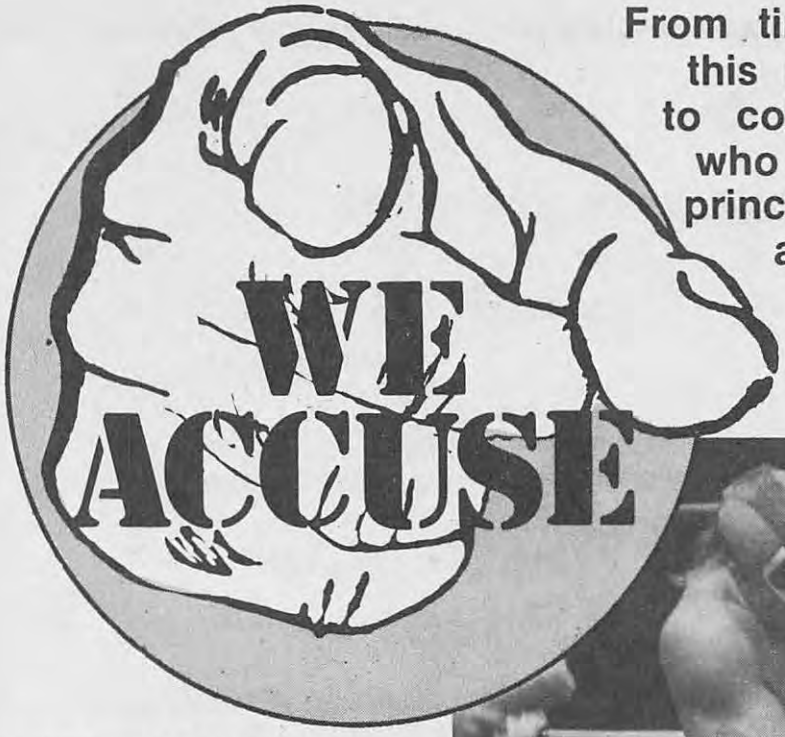
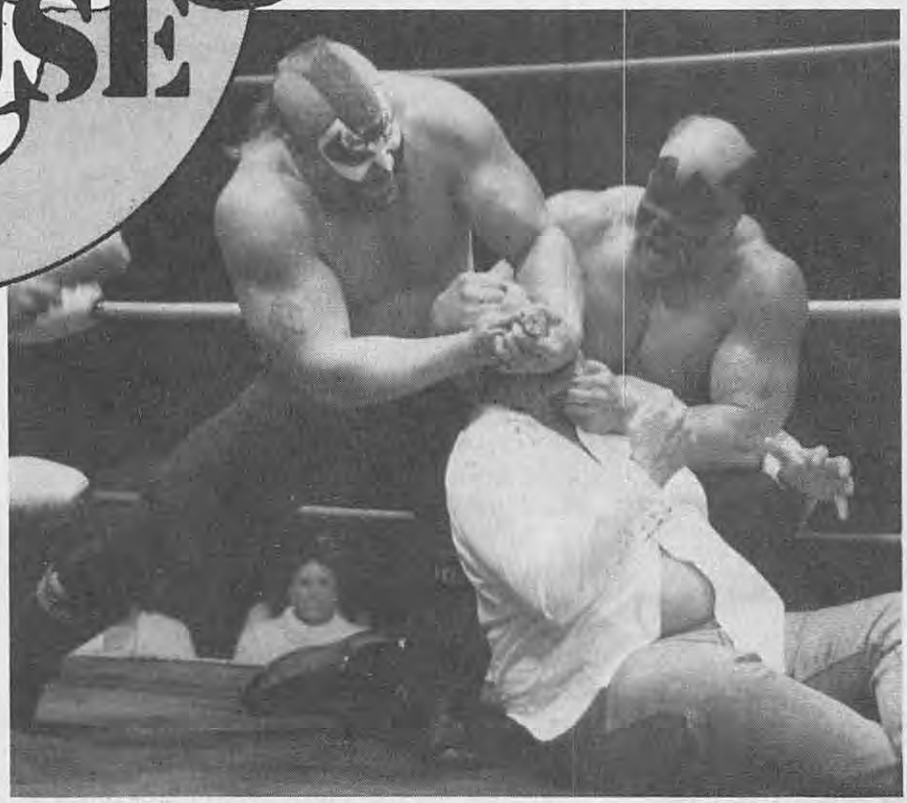


From time to time, the editors of this magazine find it necessary to condemn those in wrestling who would subvert the basic principles of decency, integrity, and honesty. Without such truths, our sport will die



Road Warrior Hawk holds Dusty Rhodes while Animal shoves a spike into his eye. The "American Dream" barely escaped a career-ending injury. Such violent acts will continue unless officials get tough on the offenders.

THE STORIES HAVE become too familiar. Night after night, men are coming within inches of suffering serious injuries that have nothing to do with the sport itself. One night, a man lays motionless after getting speared in the stomach; the following night, a player nearly gets his head bashed in; one night later, an eye is almost poked out.

All of these incidents have occurred in the National Hockey League over the first two months of the current season, a shameful example of a sport becoming a bloodbath. No longer is fighting the major problem; now it's violent skaters waving their sticks at other players, out of frustration or anger or in retaliation.

But incredibly, each time, the penalty is no more than a 10- or 15-game suspension for a crime that would draw a much harsher penalty if committed by civilians on the streets. For some reason, anti-social violence is acceptable in the sports arena, often to the delight of the hometown crowd when a member of the visiting team is the victim.

It is a sad commentary on the state of professional sports in North America. And, unfortunately, pro wrestling is not immune to this problem. If anything, in fact, incidents such as those described above are commonplace in the wrestling ring.

Perhaps a recent incident, such as The Road Warriors' near-blinding of Dusty Rhodes, would be more acceptable if the offenders had committed the act with their bare hands. Hockey players, after all, carry sticks on the ice for the purpose of passing and shooting, and only occasionally are they misused to injure an opponent.

But how, we ask, can a federation sit by idly while two wrestlers use a hard metal spike on another wrestler? And why is a wrestler merely *disqualified* for hitting another wrestler with a steel chair? Why is Hacksaw Duggan allowed to use a 2x4 on an opponent, as he did in The Survivor Series, and merely get disqualified?

What are these objects doing in a wrestling ring?

Why doesn't common sense apply to professional wrestling?

The editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* realize that the wrestlers themselves are carrying out these acts. But if the federations handed out stiffer penalties for the use of foreign objects, perhaps wrestling would return to the days when two or four men fought it out in the ring using only their bare hands and the skills they have carefully and painstakingly developed.

What skills are necessary to hit an opponent over the head with a 2x4?

(Continued on page 64)

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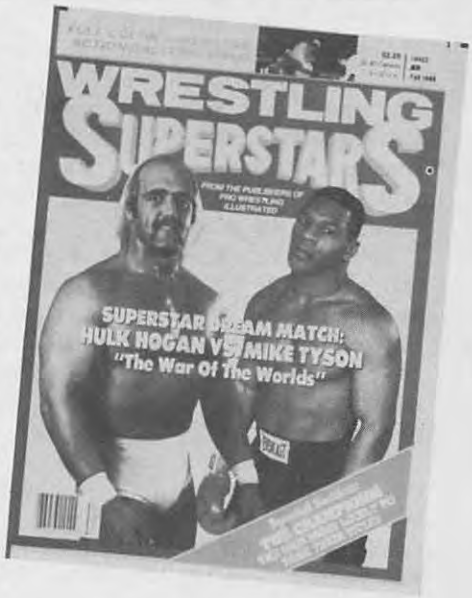

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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

WENDI RICHTER

HERE'S A TRIVIA question you can use to stump your friends: Name the only two wrestlers that hold singles titles in two separate federations.

Time's up. Here are the answers.

Ronnie Garvin (AWA TV and WWC Universal) is one.

Wendi Richter is the other.

Yes, it's been more than three years since stories such as "Is Wendi Richter More Popular Than Hulk Hogan?" (she wasn't) and "Wendi Richter: How She Saved Women's Wrestling" (she didn't) dotted this magazine and our sister publications. Although Richter is no longer at the peak of her popularity, she's still one of the finest female wrestlers in the world.

Longevity is, after all, one of the tests of a champion, and Richter has passed that crucial examination. Her days as WWF World women's champion and a main-eventer at the first WrestleMania are long over. In Puerto Rico, however, she's known as WWC Women's champion, a title Richter has held since July 28, 1987, when she defeated Monster Ripper in the West Indies.

And on November 26, 1988, at the Met Center in Bloomington, Minnesota, Richter won the AWA World Women's title from Madusa Miceli. It was a long-awaited victory for Richter, who had tried for several months to win the belt from her hated rival. Richter arrived in the AWA last September with one goal: beat Miceli.

Now she can proudly say, "mission accomplished." And with the recent news that Miceli was named *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Rookie of the Year for 1988, Richter's victory becomes all the more sweet.

Despite Richter's victory, there was considerable debate over who should be this month's "Wrestler of the Month." Garvin, for example, won the WWC Universal title with a shocking upset over Puerto Rican legend Carlos Colon in a tournament final. Jeff Jarrett regained the World Class light heavyweight title from Eric Embry, establishing himself as a future superstar whose time has come.

And Eddie Ellner argued that The Road Warriors, last month's winners, have been so dominant in the NWA, they deserved to win the award *again*. "Look what they did to Dusty Rhodes," Ellner said, referring to the incident in which The Legion of Doom used a spike to seriously injure Rhodes' right eye. "Just for that, we should give them the award permanently and retire it."

Richter's name, in fact, wasn't even mentioned until moments before the editors were ready to cast their ballots. Then Senior Editor Bill Apter said: "We're forgetting someone just because we're only considering men. How about Wendi Richter? She beat Madusa, and now she has *two* belts."

In the final tally, Richter earned all but one vote—Ellner cast his ballot for the Warriors—and became the first woman to earn "Wrestler of the Month" honors twice; she also won the honor in July 1985. Sherri Martel (November 1987) and Fabulous Moolah (March 1986) are the only other women to win the honor in its nine-year history.

"This is wonderful," Richter said when informed that she was our "Wrestler of the Month." "The one thing me and Madusa *do* have in common is that we're both trying to better the image of women's wrestling. It seems to me that women's wrestling is only very popular for short periods of time before it fades out again. If this recognition helps the popularity of women's wrestling, then my victory was for me, Madusa, and every woman in the sport."

Right now, however, Miceli doesn't care about the state of women's wrestling. She is bitter about the loss, which ended her reign one day short of 11 months. Miceli contends that she was thrown over the top rope during the match and should have won by disqualification.

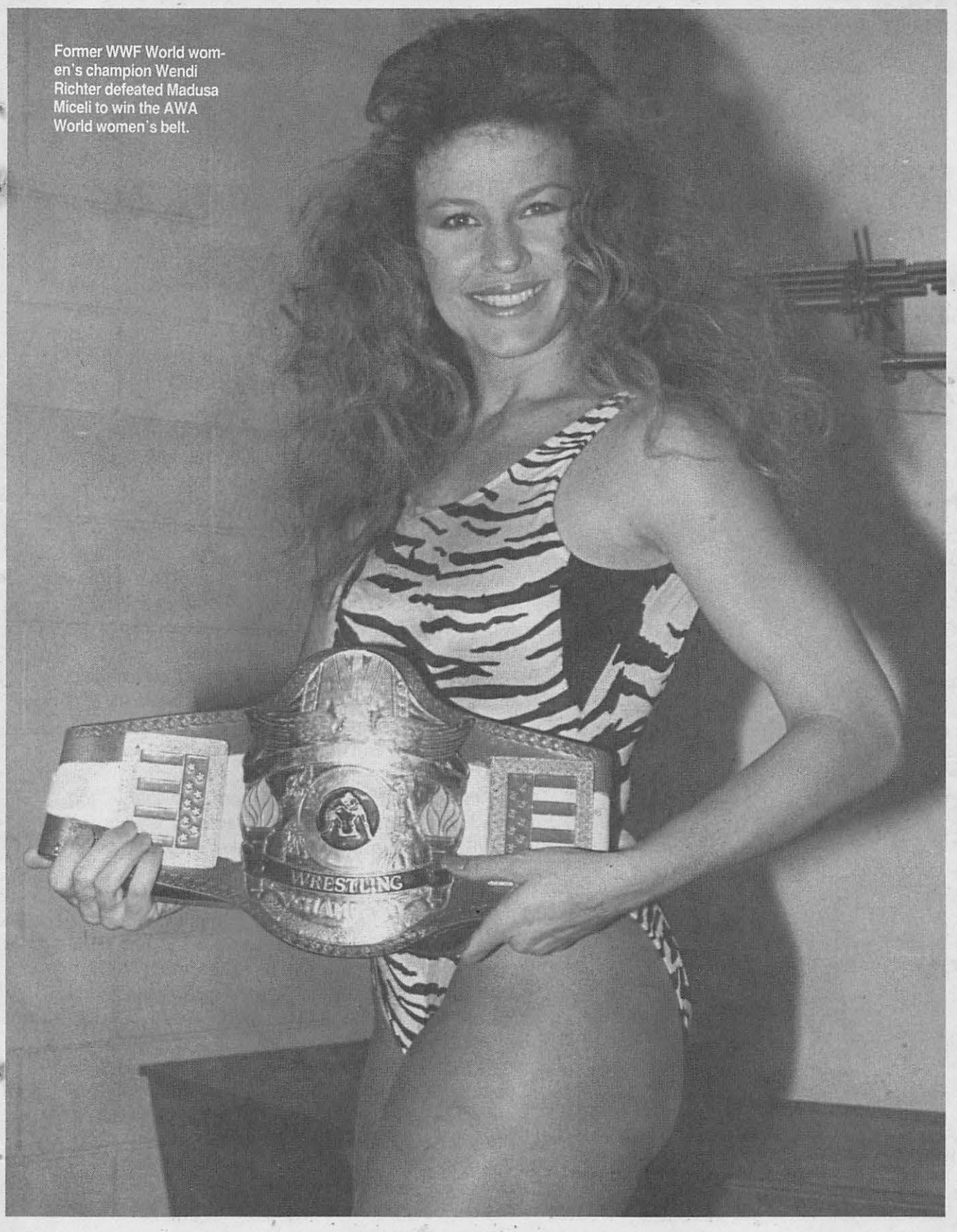
"I'm demanding a rematch," said Miceli, who has also been on a crusade to increase the popularity of women's wrestling. "If she can pin me fair and square, fine, but she never should've had the chance. As far as I'm concerned, that match was finished when I went over the top rope."

Miceli, however, seems to have forgotten a match back on September 19 in Memphis, when Richter was on the verge of pinning Madusa but Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond ran into the ring. Richter could have easily won the title right there if not for her bad luck.

"I wasn't about to brood about that," Richter explained. "I've learned that patience is a virtue in this sport. In most cases, you're not gonna just arrive in a federation and win titles immediately. There's almost always a period where you have to get acquainted with the competition, the different rings, different referees, and even different fans. I was willing to wait . . . but not *too* long."

Richter's future remains uncertain. Defenses of the WWC women's title are relatively rare. The roster of women in the AWA continues to change. Meanwhile, there has been talk that Richter might go after the NWA U.S. title, currently held by Misty Blue Simmes.

If successful in that venture, she'd become the first wrestler, male or female, to hold major titles in all three federations during her career—and the answer to yet another trivia question! □

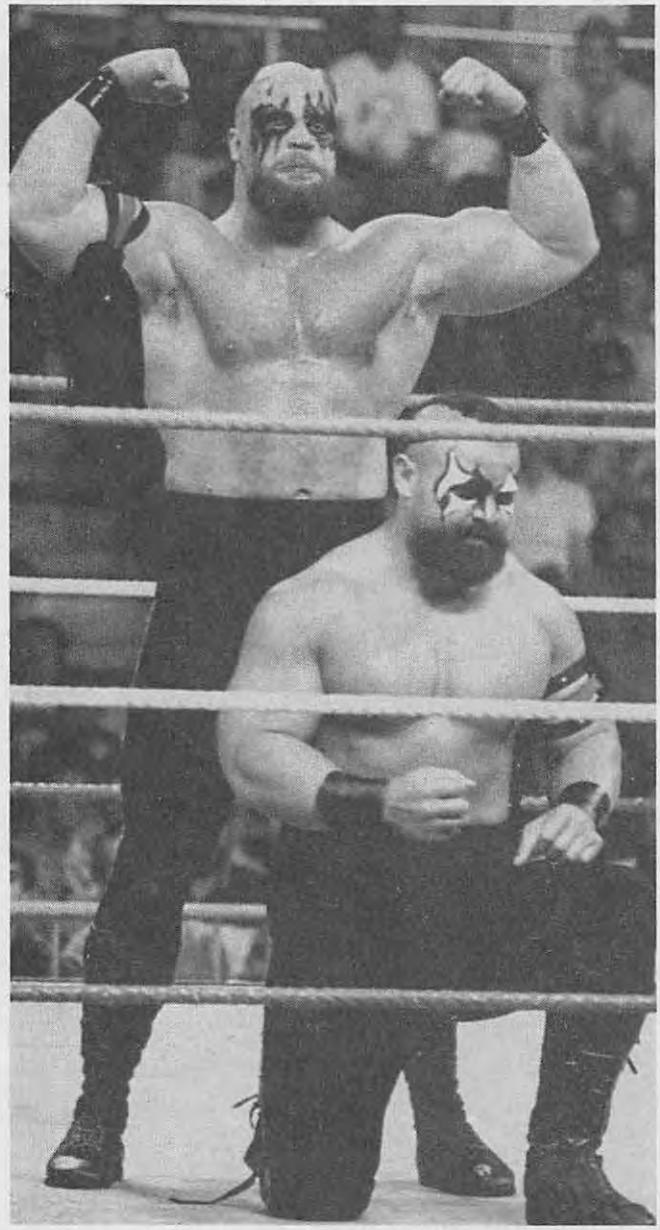


Former WWF World women's champion Wendi Richter defeated Madusa Miceli to win the AWA World women's belt.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

POINT:

THE POWERS OF PAIN MADE A GOOD MOVE BY SIGNING MR. FUJI AS THEIR MANAGER



The Powers of Pain were wise to choose Mr. Fuji as their manager, Dave Rosenbaum writes, because Fuji's experience in negotiation will net Warlord and Barbarian more WWF World tag team title shots against Demolition.

By Dave Rosenbaum

IT WAS A sad situation. Prior to The Survivor Series, The Powers of Pain were going nowhere in the WWF.

After an explosive start (remember when they attacked Demolition upon their arrival in the WWF?), Warlord and Barbarian had slowed down to the point where they were *behind* The British Bulldogs, The Hart Foundation, and The Rougeau Brothers on the line of contenders for the WWF World title.

Here was a team with more size, more strength, and more ability than Demolition, but they couldn't land more than a handful of title shots. Simply put, they were getting lost in the WWF shuffle.

That, however, is about to change for one very logical reason: Mr. Fuji. The Powers of Pain have always been better known for brawn than brain, but that was one smart move to come to the aid of Mr. Fuji at The Survivor Series and sign him as their manager.

Now, I'm not saying that Fuji is an outstanding manager. He's below average as a tactician and did nothing to help improve Ax and Smash's physical condition. But he is an aggressive manager who can assure that Warlord and Barbarian will get the respect they deserve from rival teams and promoters. And remember; Demolition won the WWF World tag belts from Strike Force only after Fuji interfered.

Could the Powers have chosen a better manager? Absolutely. Fuji is absolutely not a better manager than Bobby Heenan or Jimmy Hart, but Heenan and Hart already have too many men in their respective stables. Fuji can give Warlord and Barbarian the time and attention they'll need to eventually win the World title.

Certainly, The Powers of Pain have given up some of their independence by signing Fuji. If they are to be successful, they must follow his game plan. But let's face it: A change was in order. Now that the change has been made, Warlord and Barbarian have no excuses.

Dave Rosenbaum is associate editor of *Sports Review Wrestling.*

There are two sides to every story, and nowhere is that more true than in professional wrestling. Each month, two of the world's most respected mat journalists will debate an important issue concerning the sport, facing off for an exchange of ideas, leaving the final decision up to *you*!

COUNTERPOINT:

THE POWERS OF PAIN MADE A BAD MOVE BY SIGNING FUJI AS THEIR MANAGER

Mr. Fuji is a lousy manager who won't do anything for The Powers of Pain that they couldn't have done for themselves. So writes Eddie Ellner, who maintains that Fuji is only good for ringside interference.

By Eddie Ellner

THE POWERS OF Pain were going nowhere. Then they signed Mr. Fuji. Now, they're going somewhere: right down the toilet.

Mr. Fuji is a terrible manager, ranking right up there with Slick, Paul Jones, Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, and Gen. Skandor Akbar on wrestling's roll call of managerial shame. He is no Bobby Heenan, Jimmy Hart, J.J. Dillon, or Jim Cornette. He's not even Gary Hart, who hasn't won a World title in who knows how long.

Of course, Fuji *has* won a World title recently, and he did it with a below average team, Demolition. But Ax and Smash are the WWF World tag team champions for only one reason: Fuji interfered at WrestleMania IV, got away with it, and continues to get away with it.

Mr. Fuji is a great sneak, but that's about all. If he can carry two teams to World titles on that questionable trait alone, he's a better sneak than I thought he was.

Warlord and Barbarian's strength is improvisational terror. You can't tell Warlord and Barbarian what to do. You can only let them get in the ring and do it. To win, they must pound an opponent senseless. What can a manager teach them, especially Fuji, who will once again try to get into the act as he did at the Survivor Series?

This is an interesting situation. Signing Mr. Fuji hurt The Powers of Pain. Losing Mr. Fuji hurt Demolition. Let's see Ax and Smash get by without Fuji's interference. Now they'll have to rely on their limited wrestling skills.

As for Warlord and Barbarian, they'll win the World belts when the referee's back is turned and Fuji can get in a cheap shot. But as long as everybody's watching, Mr. Fuji can't do anything for The Powers of Pain.

Eddie Ellner is assistant editor of *Sports Review Wrestling.*

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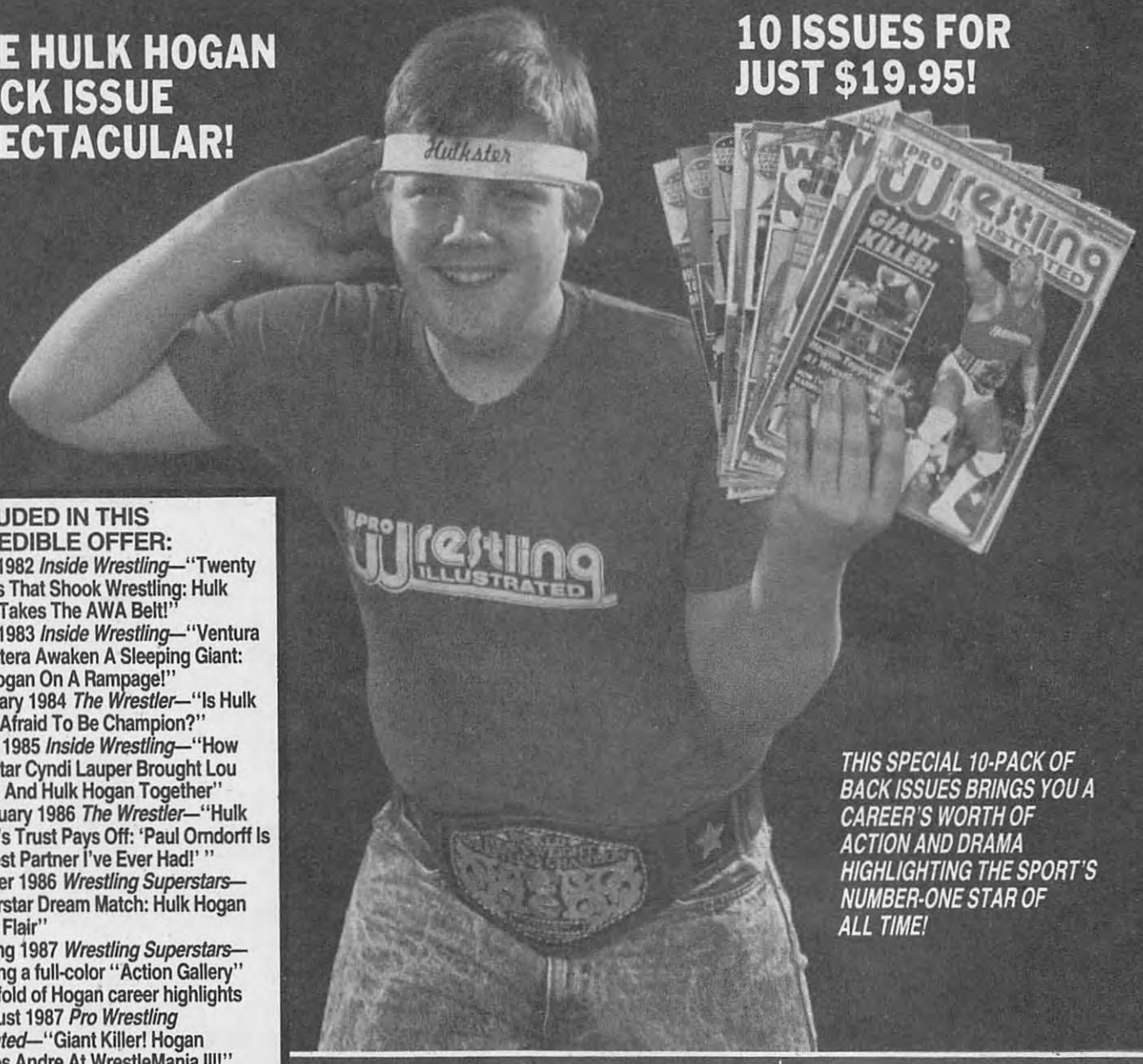

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THEN AND NOW

WATCHING INDIVIDUAL WRESTLERS develop over the course of their careers can be as fascinating as the most perfectly executed maneuver. As wrestling changes—and it *has* changed drastically over the past decade—the men who make wrestling exciting change, too.

These changes can be noted particularly in the physical makeup of these men. Wrestling has evolved to a point where there is more emphasis on strength and less emphasis on scientific skills; thus, wrestlers are bigger, but less agile, than they once were.

Because of the expansion of several federations over the past decade, wrestlers are more apt to compete in seven different cities over the course of a week. For this reason, they're more likely to try and finish off an opponent as quickly as possible instead of getting involved in a scientific marathon. As a result, wrestlers are more aggressive, but in many cases lack the individual match stamina they once had. However, they are able to last longer over a period of months or weeks.

And, of course, there are the natural changes. Take a look at a photo of yourself from, say, 10 years ago, and compare it to the way you look now. The changes are probably startling. We dress differently, wear our hair differently, have developed physically, and have aged. Yes, time itself can make the differences between then and now rather drastic.

Of course, because we see ourselves and our friends every day, we often don't notice these changes. They evolve subtly over time. If you've been a pro wrestling fan for many years, you probably haven't noticed how much the wrestlers themselves have changed. But rest assured: they *have* changed.

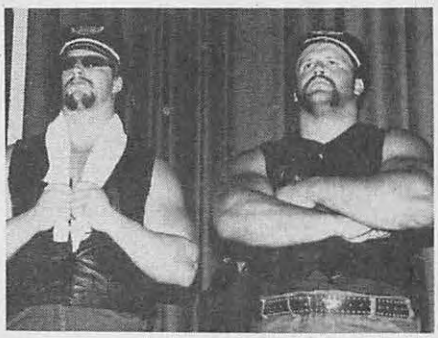
On the other hand, if you've only been watching the sport for a short time, you'll probably be startled to see how different your favorite stars looked five, 10, or 15 years ago.

That's the purpose of this special photographic retrospective. The men on the following pages have gone through a lot of changes in their careers, changes that are reflected in large part by the photographs you are about to see.

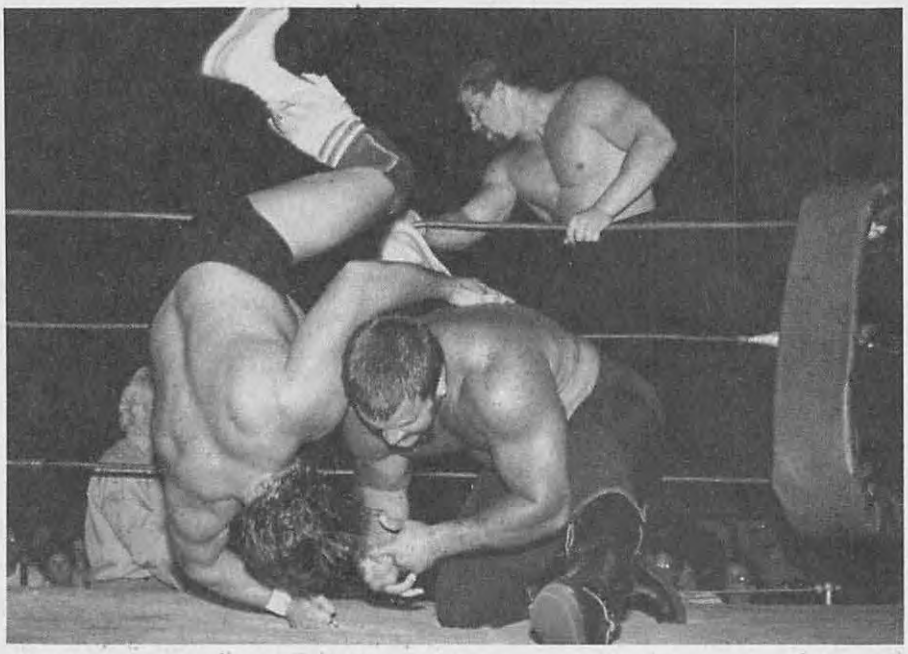
It is a fascinating section we took great care in putting together. So sit back and enter the *Sports Review Wrestling* time machine for a ride you'll never forget!

A PHOTOGRAPHIC RETROSPECTIVE

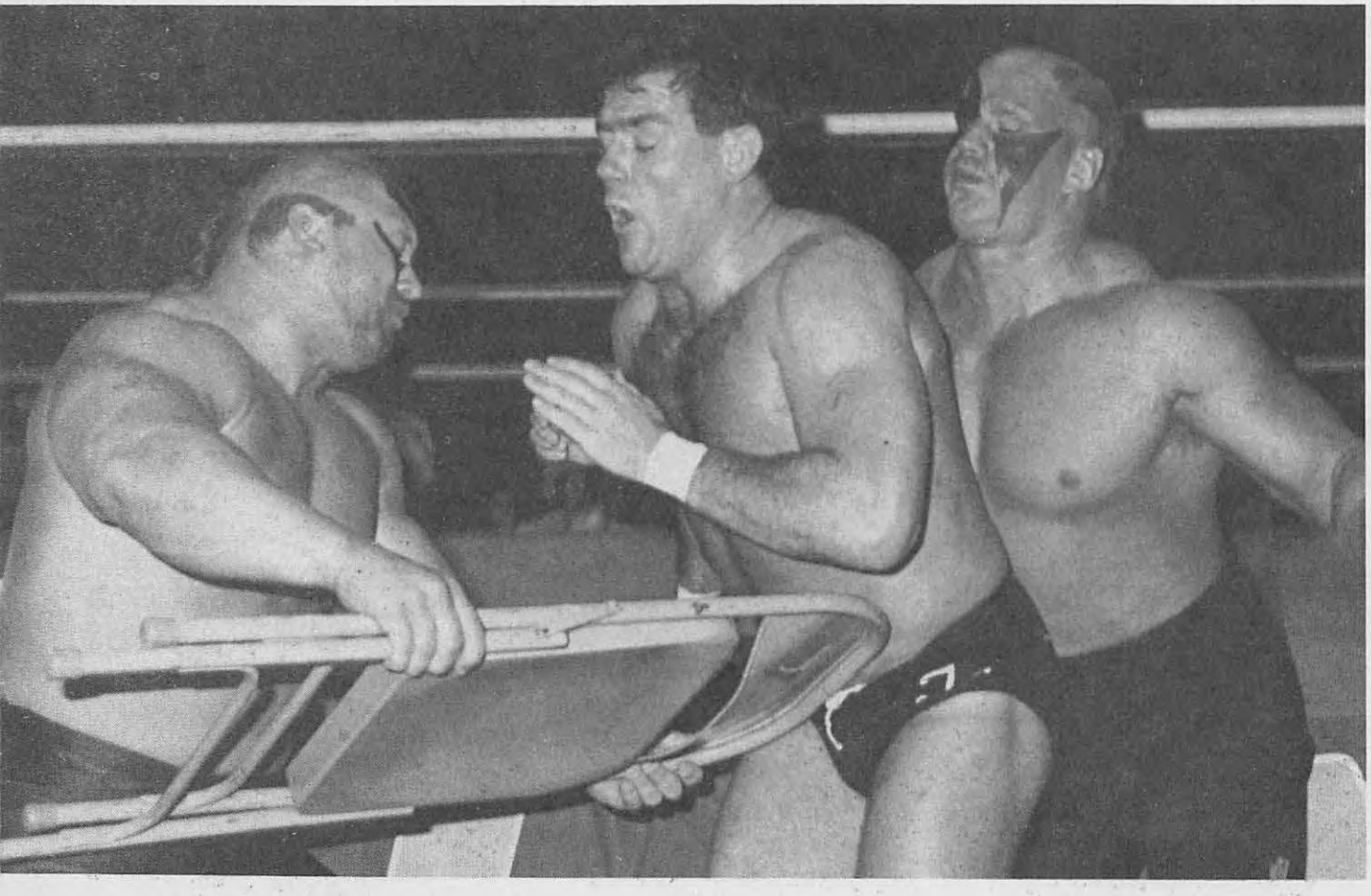
THE ROAD WARRIORS



THEN AND NOW



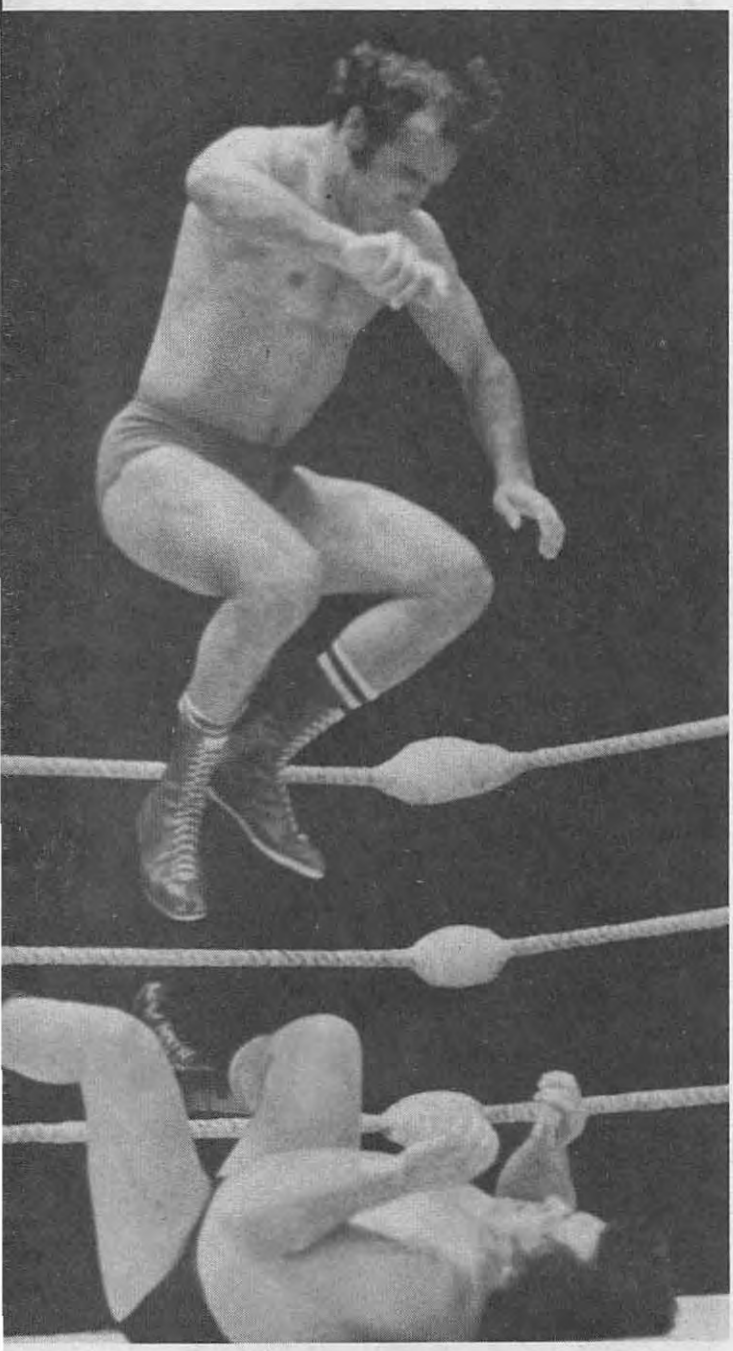
Has time changed The Road Warriors? Probably in appearance only. Animal and Hawk have removed the motorcycle gang caps and leathers. They now paint their faces and are bigger than they were in 1983, when they first teamed. But they've retained their ruthlessness. Animal flips Rick Rude to the mat during a 1983 match in Atlanta (above). Hawk holds Tully Blanchard while Animal shoves a chair into his abdomen in a match last summer (below).



THE IRON SHEIK

THEN AND NOW

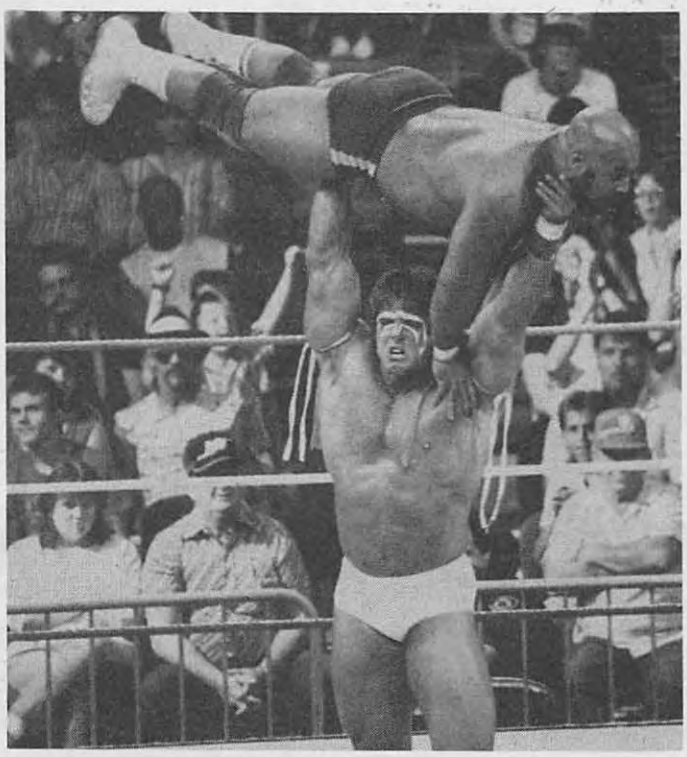
The difference between The Iron Sheik now and then is easy to explain. Since the photo at far left was taken in 1974, the Sheik has embraced his Iranian heritage more than ever. Make no mistake, however: This 1968 Olympic bronze medalist is still a skilled athlete. Although he lacks the leaping ability he once had (below left), The Iron Sheik can overpower even his strongest opponents, such as Sgt. Slaughter (below). Few wrestlers in the sport can match the Sheik's outstanding amateur background, or his record. He is a former WWF World champion.

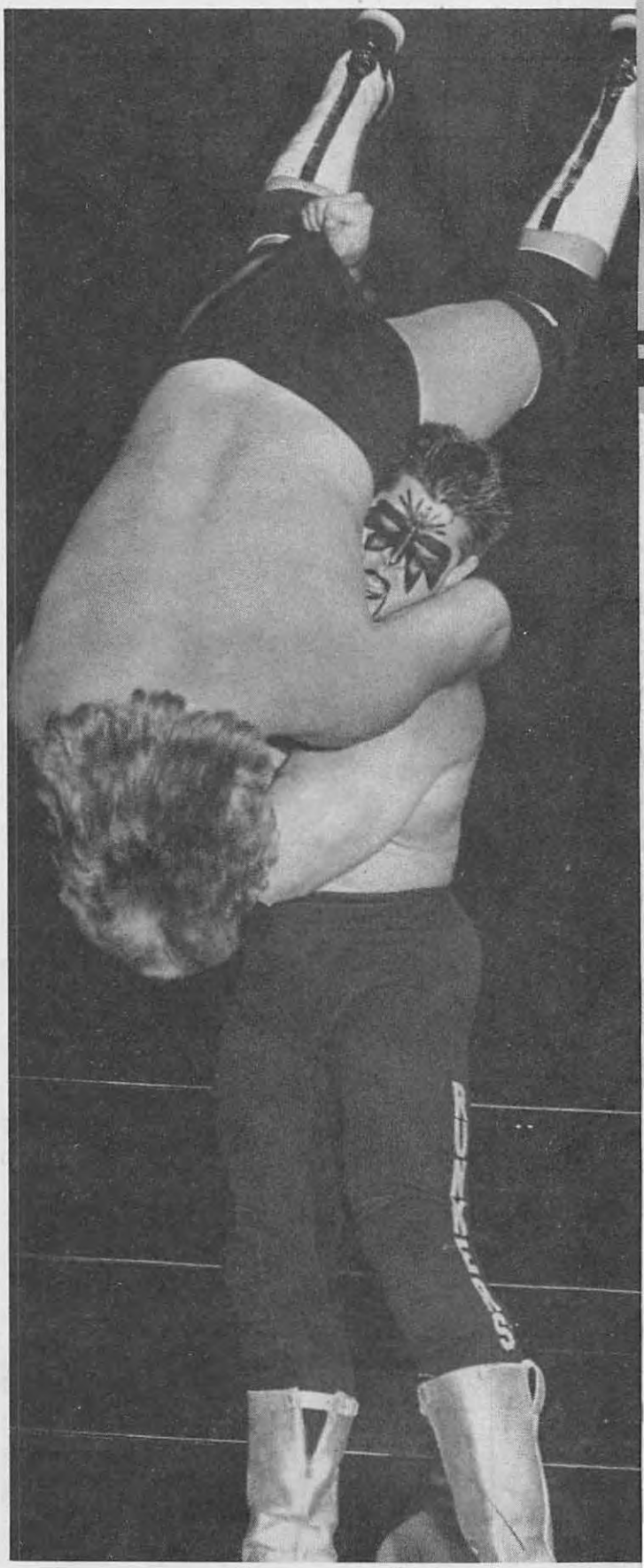


THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

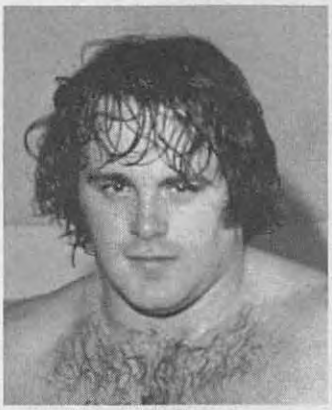
THEN AND NOW

How much can a man change in only three years? The answer can be found right here. The Ultimate Warrior, known back in 1986 as Blade Runner Rock, has changed his hairstyle, shaved off his moustache, and become more muscular. Although he was always a large man, the Warrior has stepped up his training regimen to become one of the most impressive individuals in the sport. As Rock, he slams Ted DiBiase during a match in the old UWF area (right). The Warrior presses Jose Estrada high above his head (below). By the way, the Warrior, currently the WWF Intercontinental champion, started wearing the bands around his arms while wrestling as The Dingo Warrior in World Class two years ago.



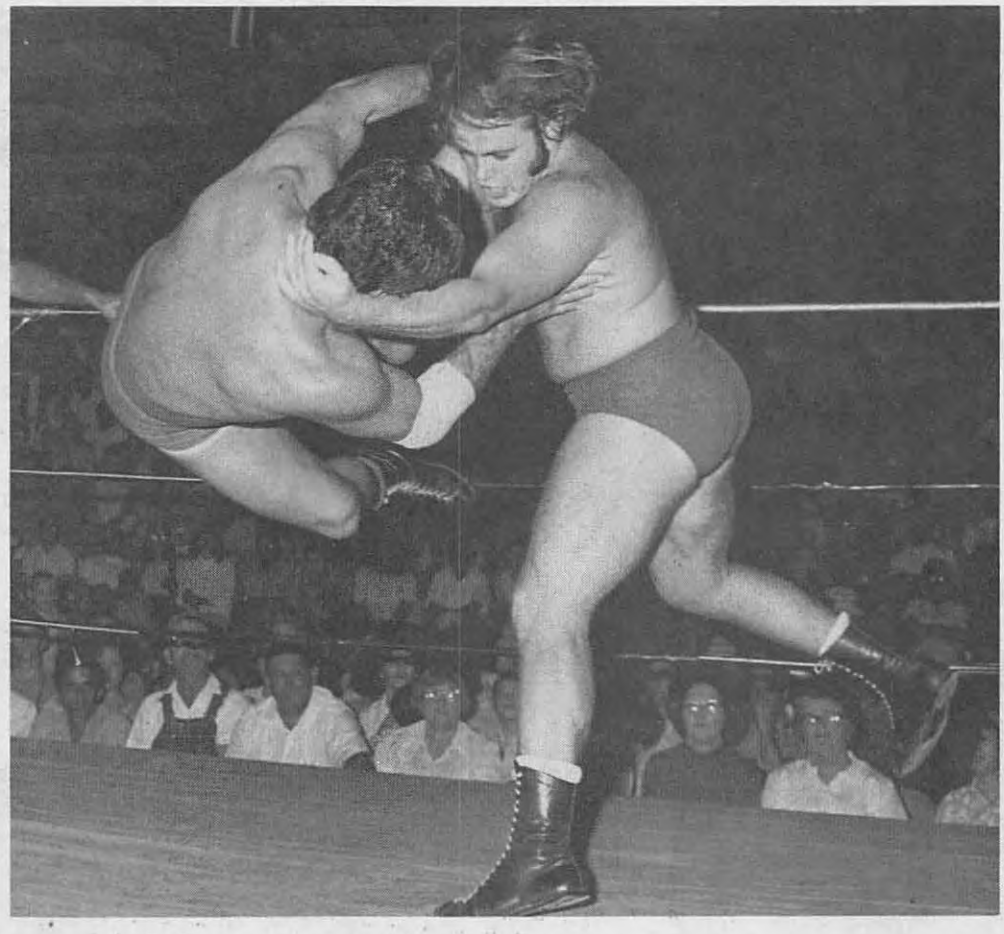


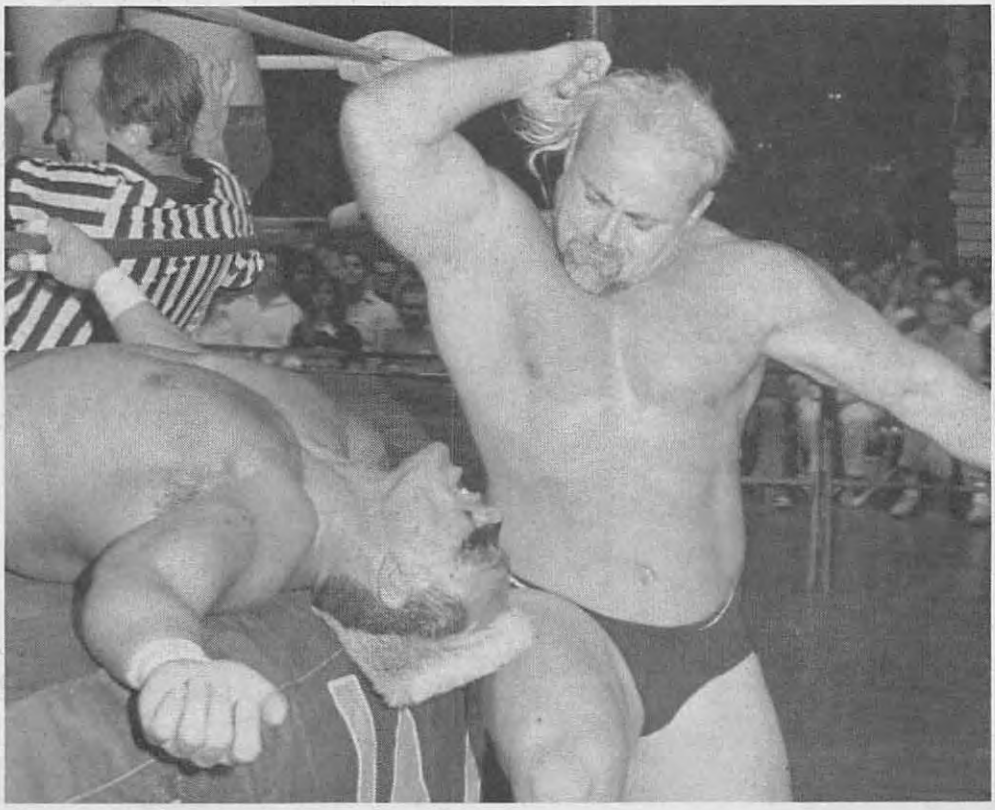
KEVIN SULLIVAN



THEN AND NOW

Kevin Sullivan has undergone immense changes, mostly philosophically. For the first 10 years of his career, Sullivan was a popular mat star in Florida and the Carolinas. But the dawn of a new decade meant the appearance of a new Kevin Sullivan, a look that is reflected in the evil glimmer of his eyes. As a rookie in 1971, Sullivan tosses a hapless opponent to the mat (above right). The cruel Sullivan prepares to elbow Sting in the throat during a Great American Bash card in Orlando, Florida, last July (right). Sullivan's Varsity Club, which includes Mike Rotundo and Steve Williams, has certainly made an impact on the NWA.

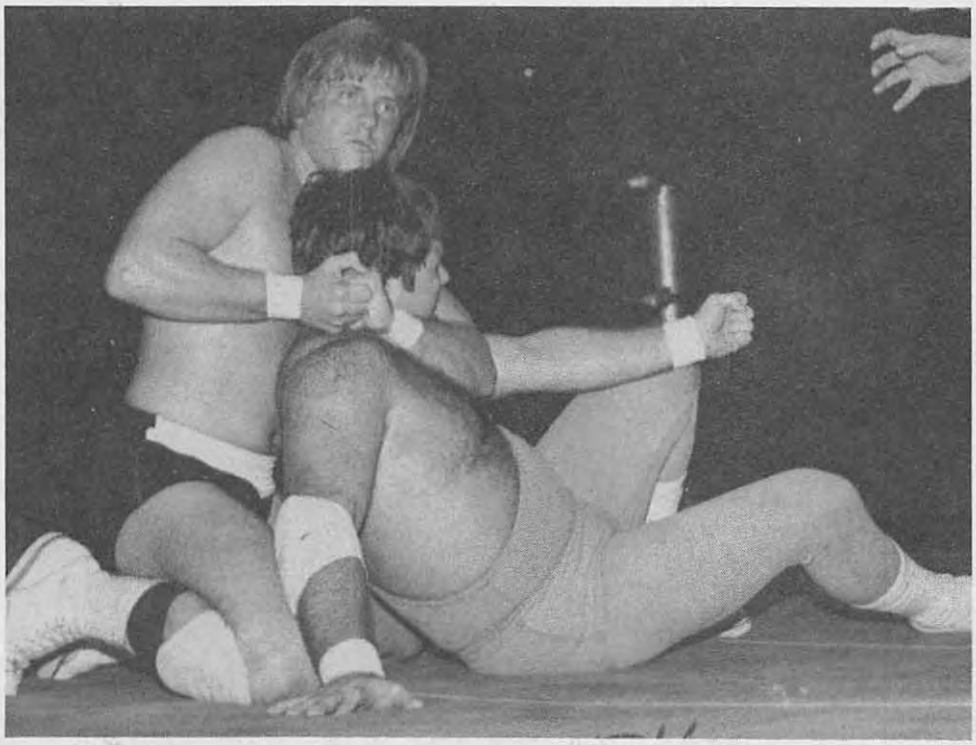




RICK MORTON

THEN AND NOW

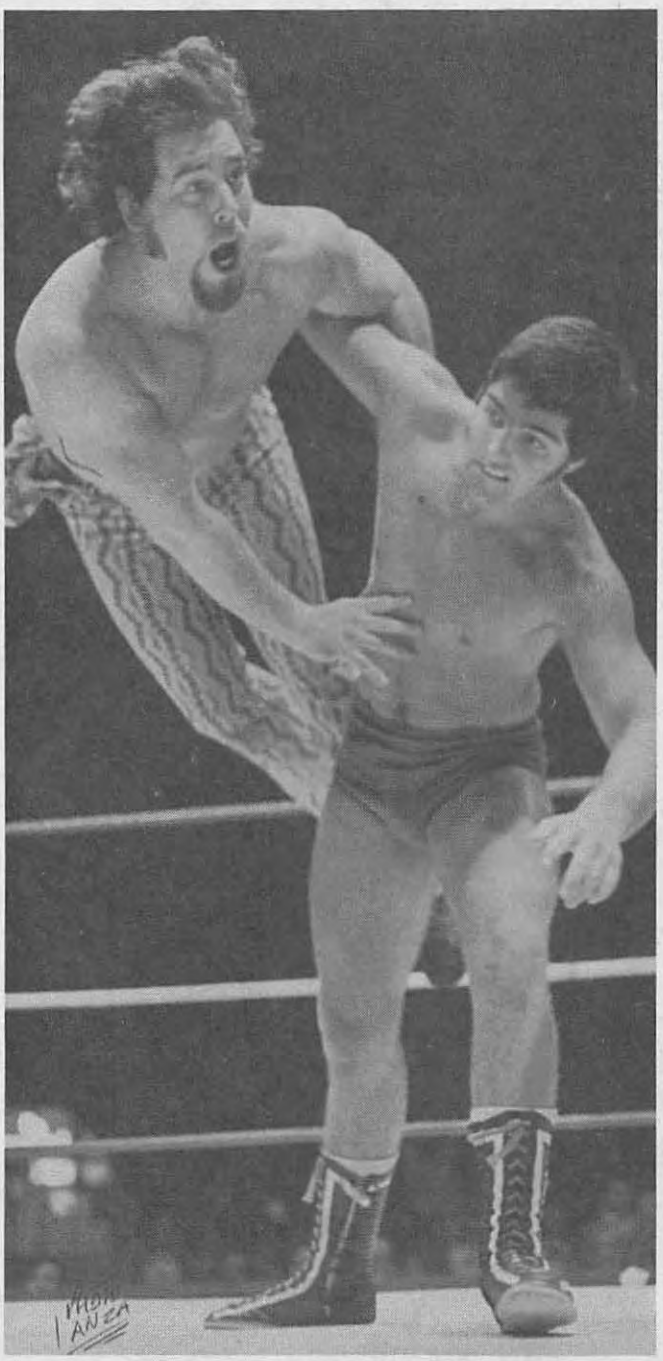
During his eight years in the sport, Rick Morton has developed from a youthful-looking schoolboy into a youthful-looking veteran. He has, however, retained his vast scientific and aerial skills. Back in 1979, his second year as wrestler, Morton took on Memphis legend Jerry Lawler (top right). Four years later, he formed The Rock 'n' Roll Express with Robert Gibson and wrestled in Memphis, the NWA, and the AWA. Recently, however, Morton found himself back in singles action wrestling The Nightmare in Southern Championship Wrestling (right).

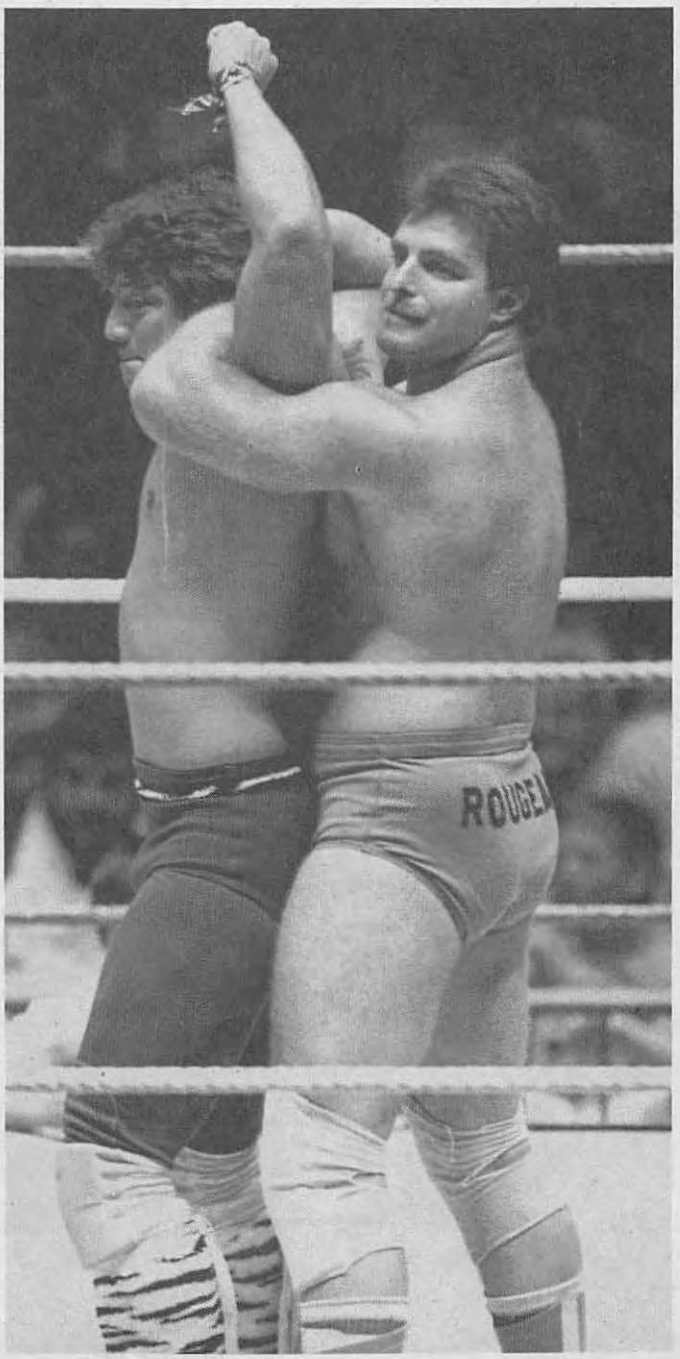


RAYMOND ROUGEAU

THEN AND NOW

The years have certainly been kind to Raymond Rougeau, who teams regularly with his brother Jacques. The "then" photo of Raymond was taken back in 1971; he has since become bigger, stronger, and certainly more arrogant. Rougeau biel-throws Hartford Love to the mat during a 1973 match in Montreal (bottom left). Now in the WWF, Raymond locks a full-nelson on Rocker Marty Jannetty (bottom right). Only recently have the Rougeaus made an international impact on wrestling.





RON SIMMONS:

EVERYBODY'S ALL-AMERICAN!

IT WAS HALFTIME at a Florida State University football game. Typically, most fans leave the stands for refreshments during the game break, but on this day the fans didn't want to go anywhere. It was time for Ron Simmons, the greatest nose guard in FSU football history, to have his number retired—the ultimate honor for any team athlete.

Chills went through Simmons' body as the fans at Tallahassee's Campbell Stadium gave him a standing ovation as he held his number 50 jersey aloft for all to see. He fought back tears as his former teammates and coaches stood before him, saluting his great achievements as an All-American defender who once had five quarterback sacks in one contest.

"This was the greatest moment of my life," said Simmons, only the sixth athlete in FSU history to be so honored. "To have your number retired by one of the finest institutions in the United States is something that few are lucky enough to achieve. Now I feel like I need to give something back to the fans. I intend to use my wrestling career to get my message to the people."

Former All-American Ron Simmons joins Fred Biletnikoff and Dave Cowens among the Florida State University athletes who have had their jerseys retired.

And what an important message Simmons has to tell. Indeed, in recent months, the Georgia native has been extremely troubled by some things he's seen in the NWA.

"I'm afraid that people are looking at the fools in The Varsity Club and thinking that *all* college athletes behave like that," said Simmons. "Well, the majority of us aren't that way at all. We care about our schools, our families, and our country. It's one of the big reasons why I've been on my soapbox during the last few months."

After most of his television matches, Simmons uses his interview segments in a unique way. Instead of bragging about himself or threatening his opponents, Simmons asks to speak to the children in the viewing audience.

"Kids, stay away from drugs," he said during a recent telecast. "Ruining your life for the sake of a cheap high is a very high price to pay. And parents, please think twice before striking your loved ones. They need you and your country needs you. Things may look bad now, but if you believe in yourself, there isn't *anything* you can't accomplish."

Simmons knows of what he speaks, because he's faced as much adversity as any person possibly could. The former Seminole spent the majority of his life with-

(Continued on page 62)

Ron Simmons is one of the NWA's fastest-rising stars and one of the greatest football players in Florida State University history. But he's more than that—he's committed to ending the twin plagues of drug and child abuse, and he's using his wrestling career to achieving these goals!

1988
THE YEAR IN PICTURES

It was one of wrestling's most sensational years ever, and *Sports Review Wrestling* was there! Our writers and photographers traveled the country to find the greatest matches and the most explosive action—and you're ringside for every pulse-pounding minute of it all!

FIFTY YEARS FROM now, wrestling historians may look back at 1988 as one of the most significant years ever in wrestling. But no matter what its precise place in history, one thing is certain: 1988 was a fabulous year for the sport.

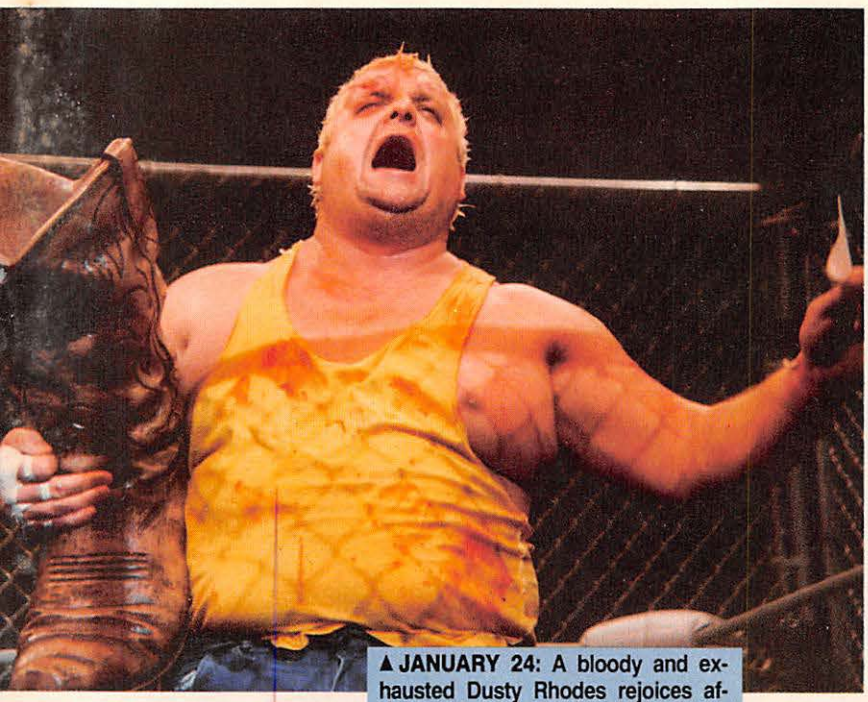
It was the year in which Hulk Hogan's first (and last?) WWF World title reign came to an end; a year in which the champions of two major federations, the AWA's Jerry Lawler and Kerry Von Erich of World Class, squared off in a battle for supremacy; and a year in which Sting, after only three years as a pro, emerged as one of the sport's hottest stars.

It was the year of the SuperCard. Fans were treated to no less than seven pay-per-view events. The WWF gave us WrestleMania IV, SummerSlam 88, and The Survivor Series; from the NWA there was the Bunkhouse Stampede, the Baltimore Great American Bash, and Starrcade '88; plus, the AWA, World Class, and CWA joined forces to bring us SuperClash III. Each federation may brag that its events were the most exciting, but the real winners were the fans.

It was the year in which One Man Gang became Akeem, Horsemen Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson became Brainbusters Blanchard and Anderson, Steve Williams became a member of the Varsity Club, and Rick Steiner became confused. It was the year in which The Ultimate Warrior made the ultimate impression on The Honky Tonk Man, the "Russian Nightmare" Nikita Koloff married an all-American girl, and Missy Hyatt was Jerry Lawler's "queen for a day."

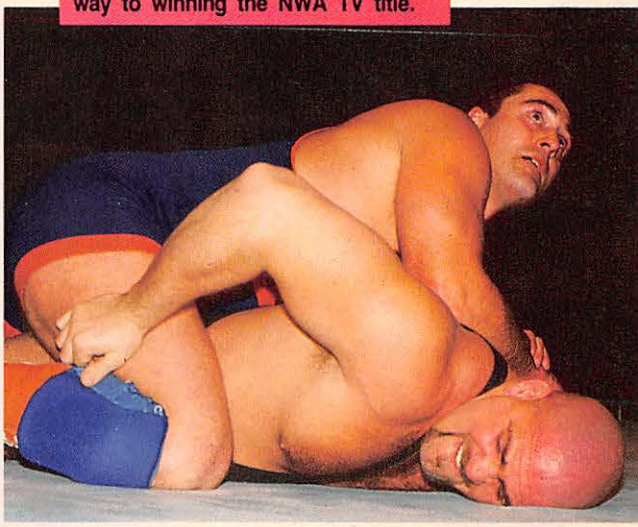
In fact, there were so many meaningful events in 1988 that space limitations prevented us from including them all in this special section. Who could forget how Jim Garvin rescued Precious from Kevin Sullivan in the "Tower of Doom" at the Great American Bash? How about Michael Hayes teaming with his avowed enemies, the Von Erichs, and turning against his old Freebird partners?

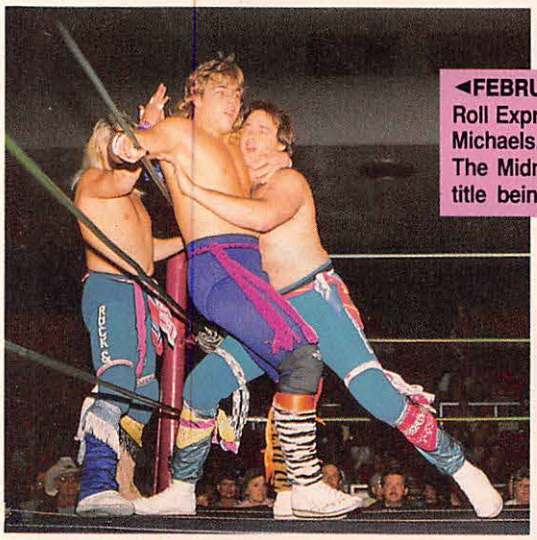
The events of 1988 will undoubtedly have repercussions on the sport for many years to come. So as you enjoy the next eight pages of full-color photos, remember: you're not only looking at the past, you're looking to the future!



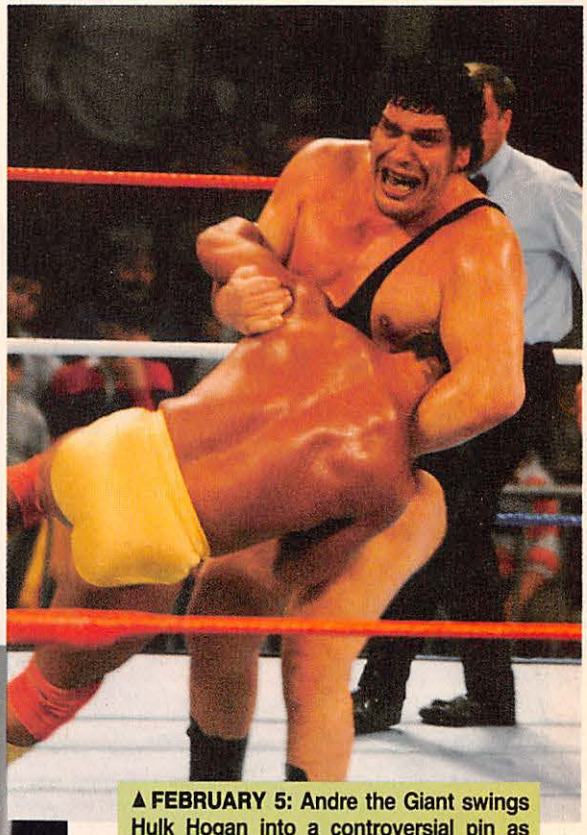
▲ **JANUARY 24:** A bloody and exhausted Dusty Rhodes rejoices after winning his third consecutive Bunkhouse Stampede final.

▼ **JANUARY 26:** Mike Rotundo holds Nikita Koloff down on the mat on his way to winning the NWA TV title.





◄**FEBRUARY 15:** The Rock 'n' Roll Express double-team Shawn Michaels. This feud resulted in The Midnight Rockers' AWA tag title being held up.

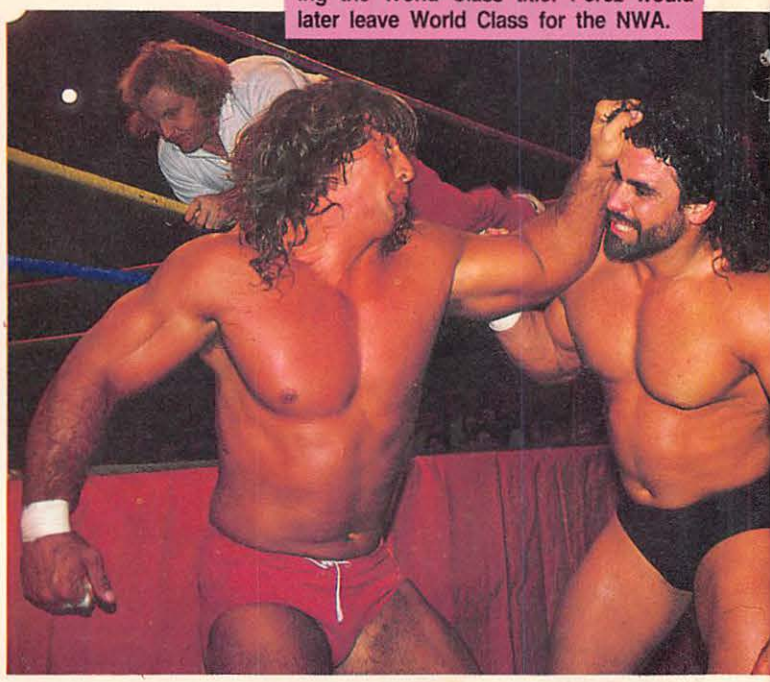


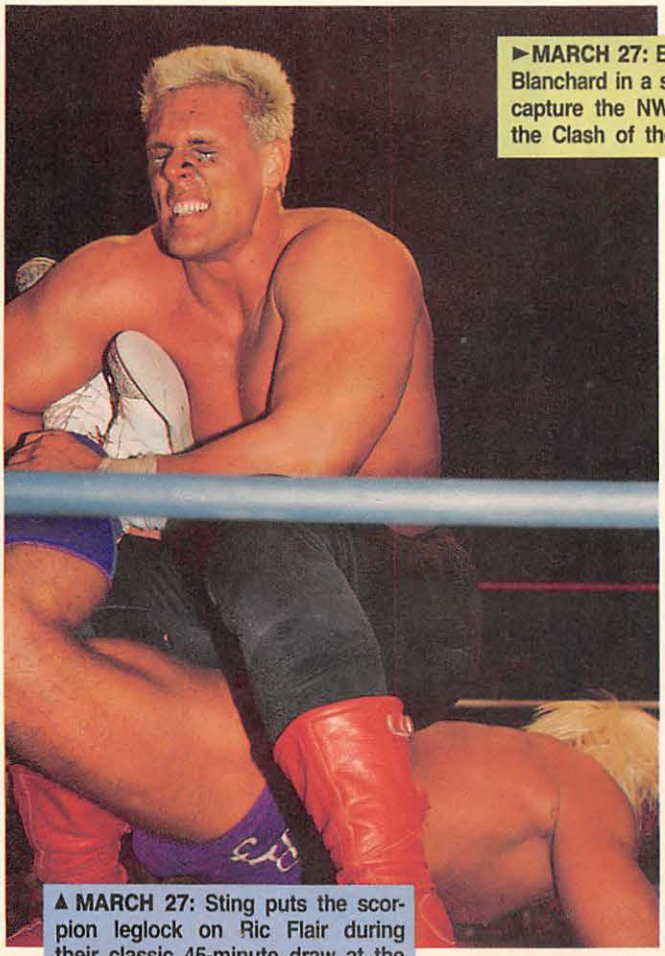
▲ **FEBRUARY 5:** Andre the Giant swings Hulk Hogan into a controversial pin as the "Hulkster" stunningly loses the WWF World title.

◄**JANUARY 30:** Road Warrior Animal's eye was seriously injured when he was attacked by Warlord and Barbarian during a weightlifting competition.

◄**MARCH 27:** Hulk Hogan saves Randy Savage from Ted DiBiase's sleeper, helping the "Macho Man" win the WWF World title at WrestleMania IV.

▼ **MARCH 6:** Kerry Von Erich slugs it out with Al Perez on his way to capturing the World Class title. Perez would later leave World Class for the NWA.





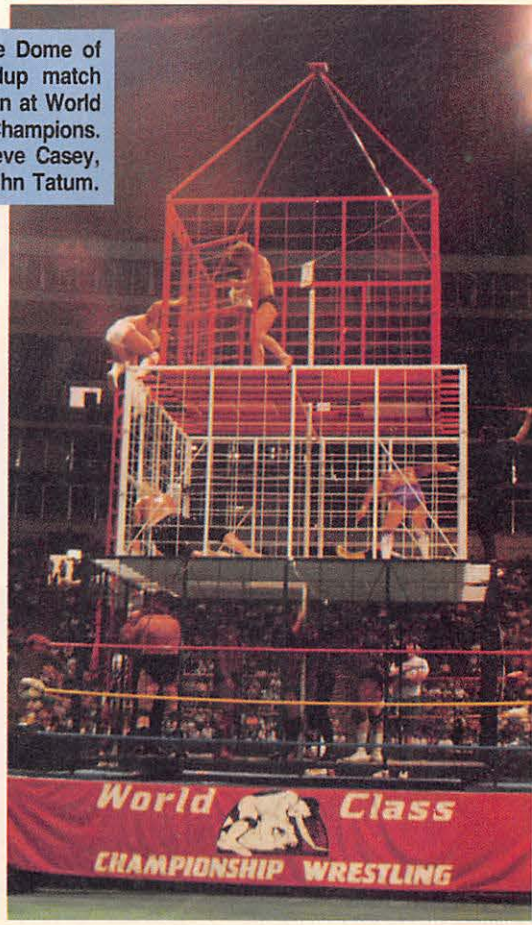
▲ **MARCH 27:** Sting puts the scorpion leglock on Ric Flair during their classic 45-minute draw at the Clash of the Champions.

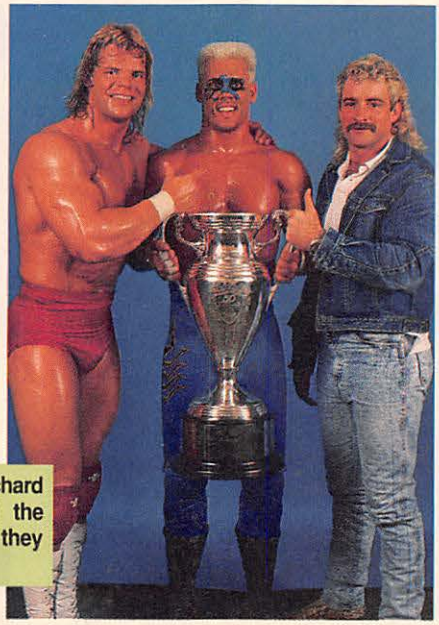
►**MARCH 27:** Barry Windham catches Tully Blanchard in a sleeper as he and Lex Luger capture the NWA World tag team belts at the Clash of the Champions.

◄**APRIL 23:** Andre the Giant chokes Hacksaw Duggan with the strap of his tights during another installment of their intense and violent war.

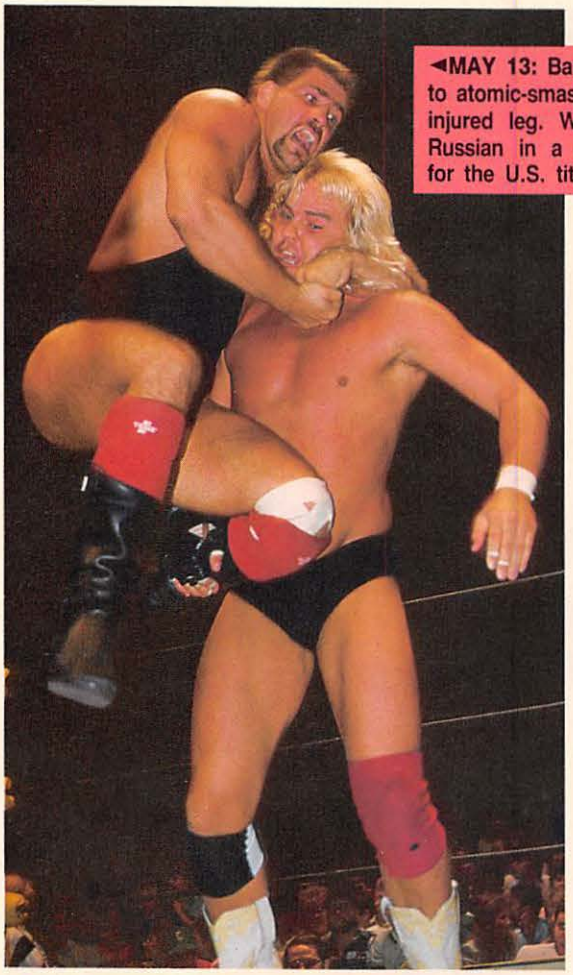
▼ **APRIL 6:** The Midnight Rider made his return to the NWA soon after Dusty Rhodes was suspended. Coincidence?

►**MAY 8:** The "Triple Dome of Terror" Texas Roundup match was the main attraction at World Class' Parade of Champions. The winners were Steve Casey, Jason Sterling, and John Tatum.





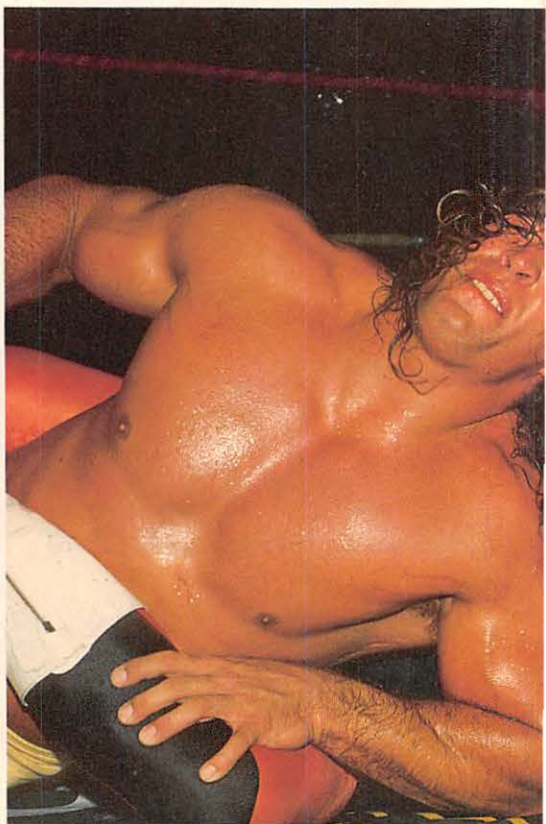
►**APRIL 23:** After defeating Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for $1-million and the Crockett Cup, Lex Luger and Sting said they "won it for Magnum T.A."

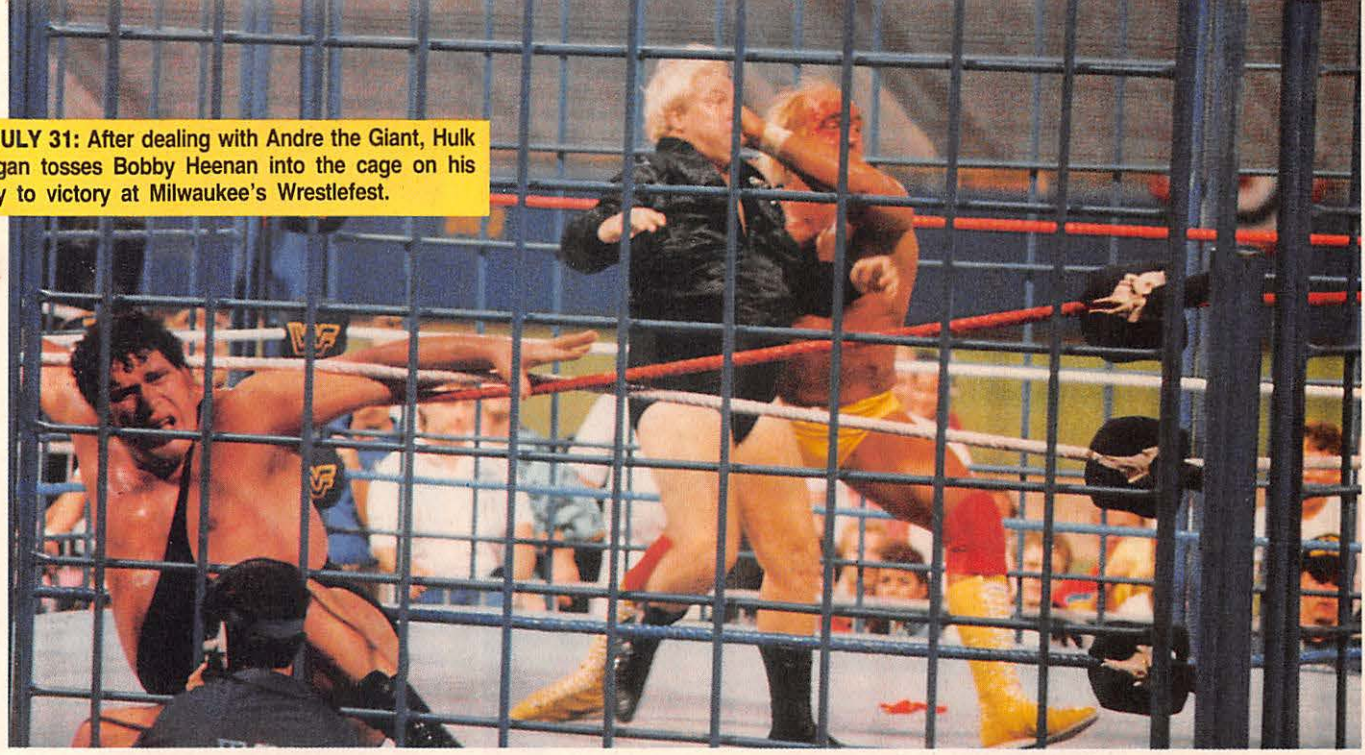


◄**MAY 13:** Barry Windham prepares to atomic-smash Nikita Koloff on his injured leg. Windham defeated the Russian in a one-night tournament for the U.S. title.

▲ **MAY 9:** Curt Hennig puts the sleeper on Jerry Lawler, but Lawler would summon the strength to win Hennig's AWA World title.

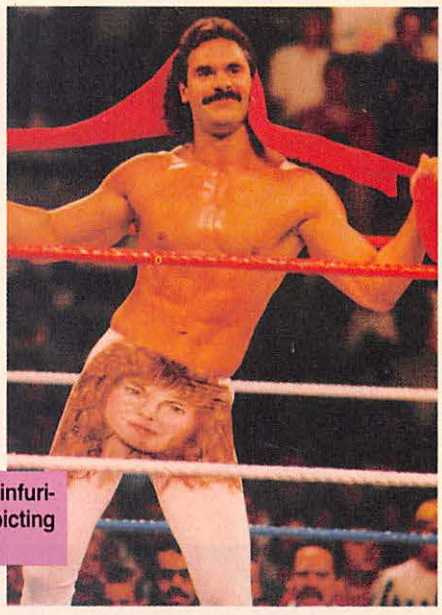
▼ **MAY 27:** Owen Hart executes a Boston crab on Hiro Hase as he wins the IWGP junior heavyweight title in Japan.





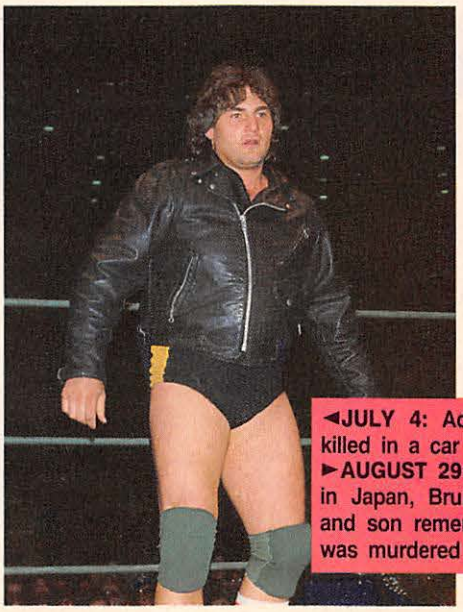
►**JULY 31:** After dealing with Andre the Giant, Hulk Hogan tosses Bobby Heenan into the cage on his way to victory at Milwaukee's Wrestlefest.

►**JUNE 21:** Demolition Ax squares off against Warlord. This feud intensified and took a surprising turn as the year came to a close.

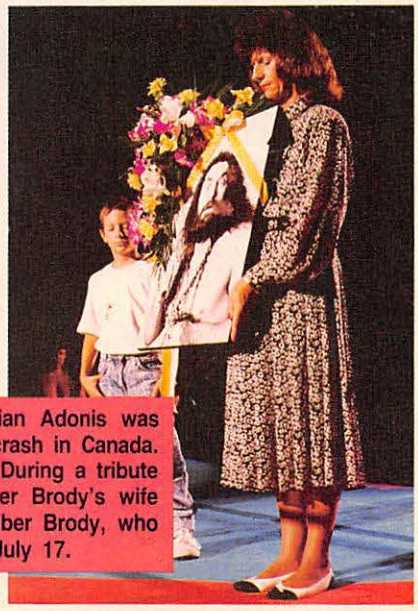


►**AUGUST 23:** Rick Rude attempts to infuriate Jake Roberts by wearing tights depicting Jake's wife Cheryl. It worked.

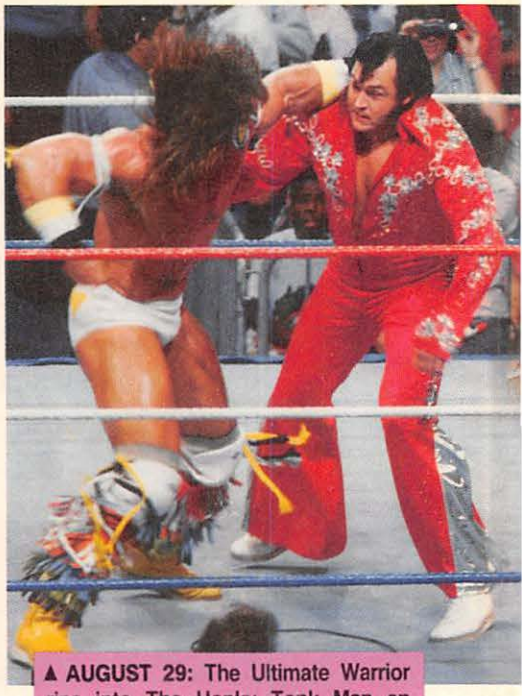
▼ **JUNE 27:** AWA World champion Jerry Lawler pulls the hair of World Class titlist Kerry Von Erich during one match in their long unification series.



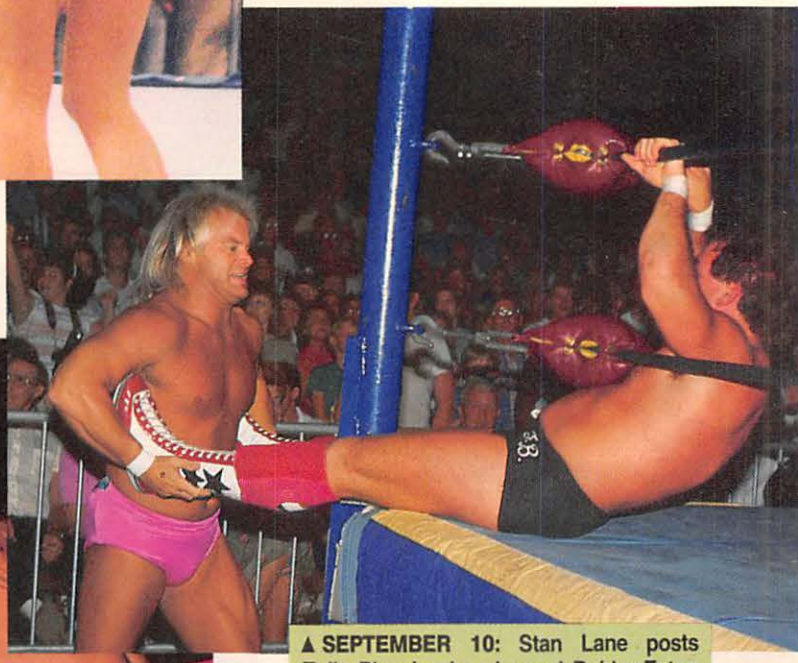
◄**JULY 4:** Adrian Adonis was killed in a car crash in Canada.
►**AUGUST 29:** During a tribute in Japan, Bruiser Brody's wife and son remember Brody, who was murdered July 17.



▲ **AUGUST 29:** Hulk Hogan congratulates Randy Savage and Elizabeth after The Megapowers' victory over The Megabucks—Andre the Giant and Ted DiBiase—at SummerSlam 88.

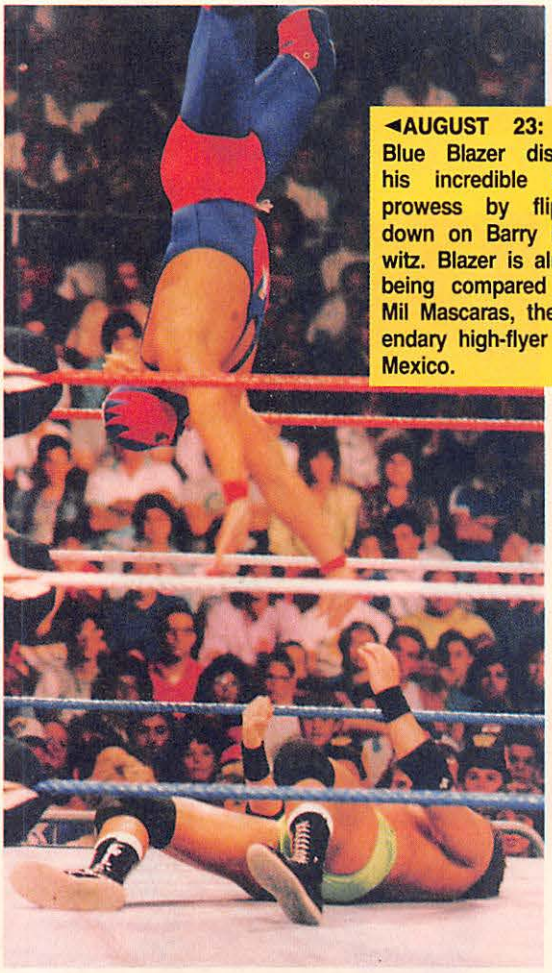


▲ **AUGUST 29:** The Ultimate Warrior rips into The Honky Tonk Man en route to winning the Intercontinental title in 31 seconds at SummerSlam.

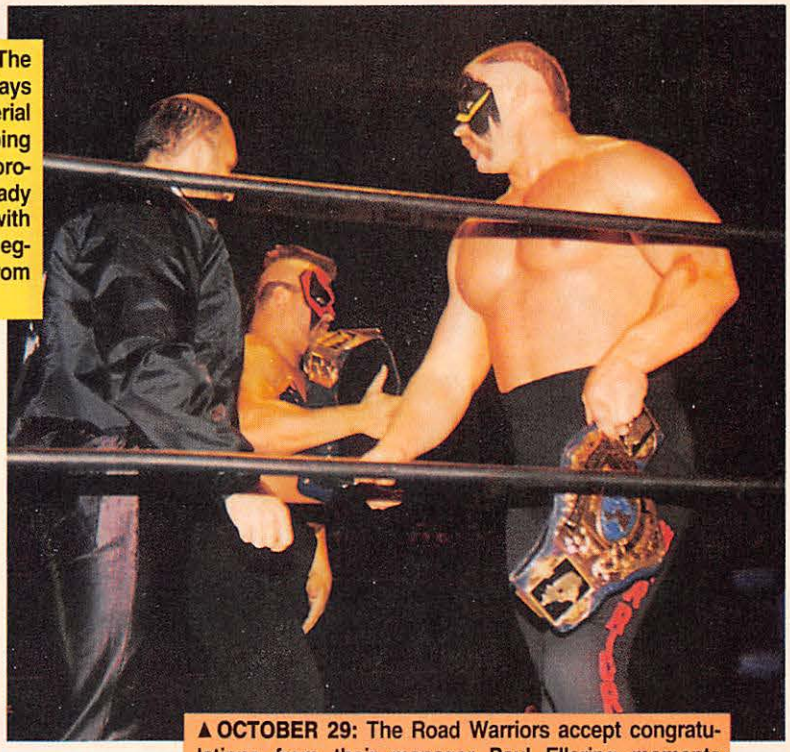


▲ **SEPTEMBER 10:** Stan Lane posts Tully Blanchard as he and Bobby Eaton win the NWA World tag title from Blanchard and Arn Anderson.

◄**SEPTEMBER 20:** Dustin Rhodes and Brett Sawyer toss Scotty "The Body" over the top rope in a battle royal one week after Dustin's pro debut in Florida.



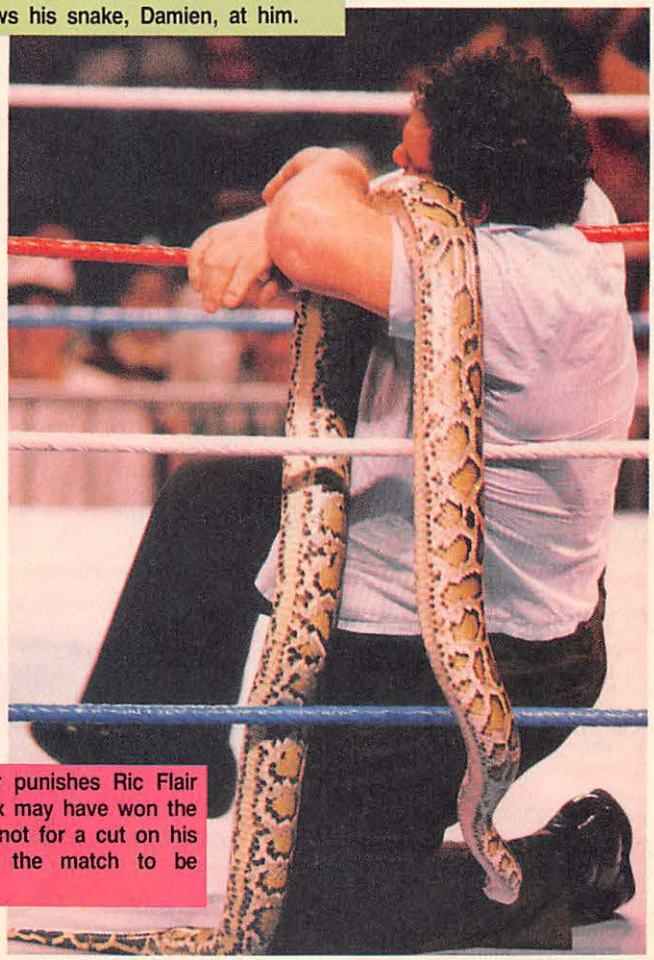
◄**AUGUST 23:** The Blue Blazer displays his incredible aerial prowess by flipping down on Barry Horowitz. Blazer is already being compared with Mil Mascaras, the legendary high-flyer from Mexico.

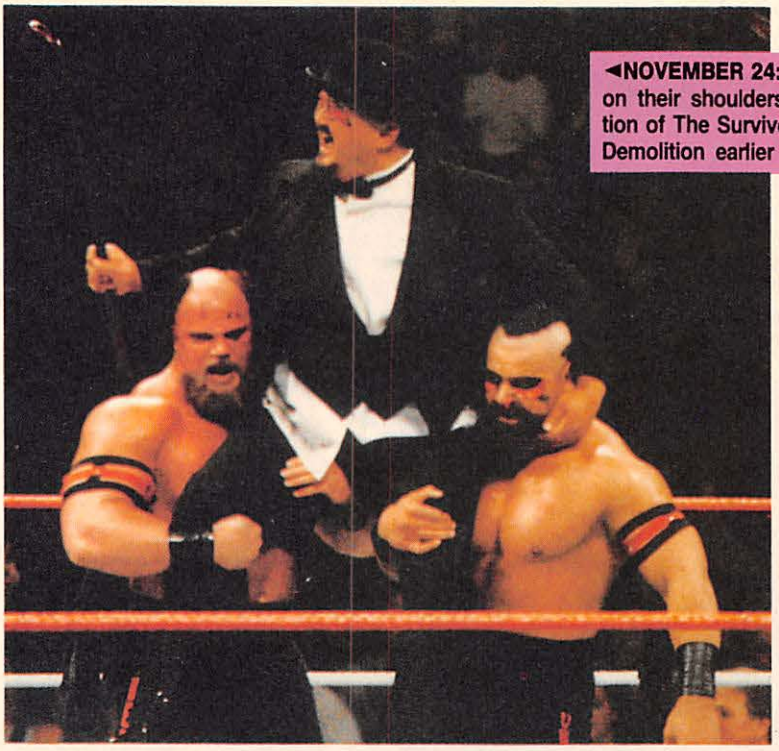


▲**OCTOBER 29:** The Road Warriors accept congratulations from their manager Paul Ellering moments after capturing the NWA World tag team belts from The Midnight Express.

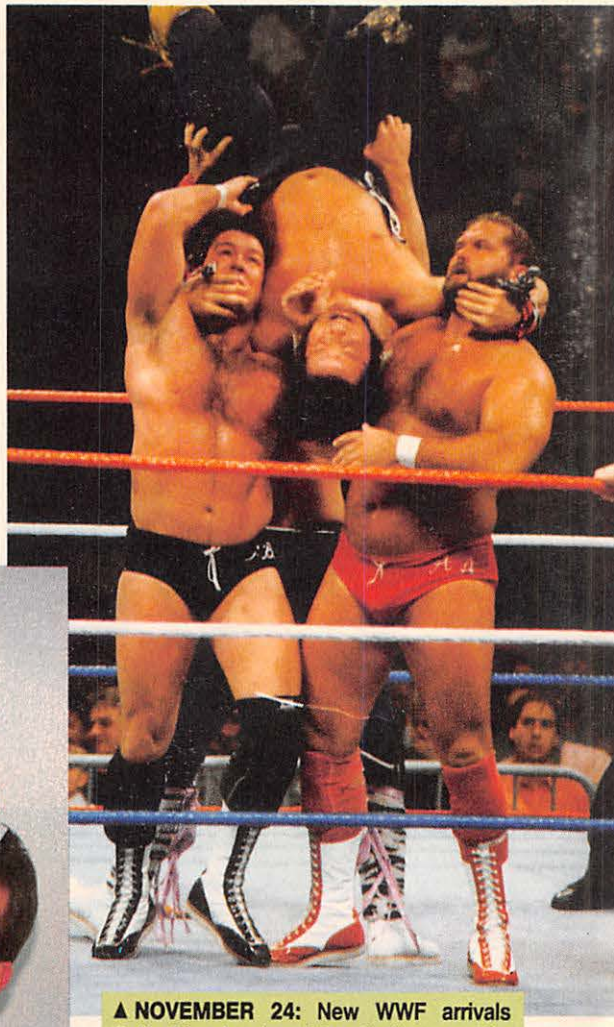
►**OCTOBER 25:** Andre the Giant passes out in fear after Jake Roberts throws his snake, Damien, at him.

◄**JULY 10:** Lex Luger punishes Ric Flair with a backbreaker. Lex may have won the NWA title that night if not for a cut on his forehead that caused the match to be halted.

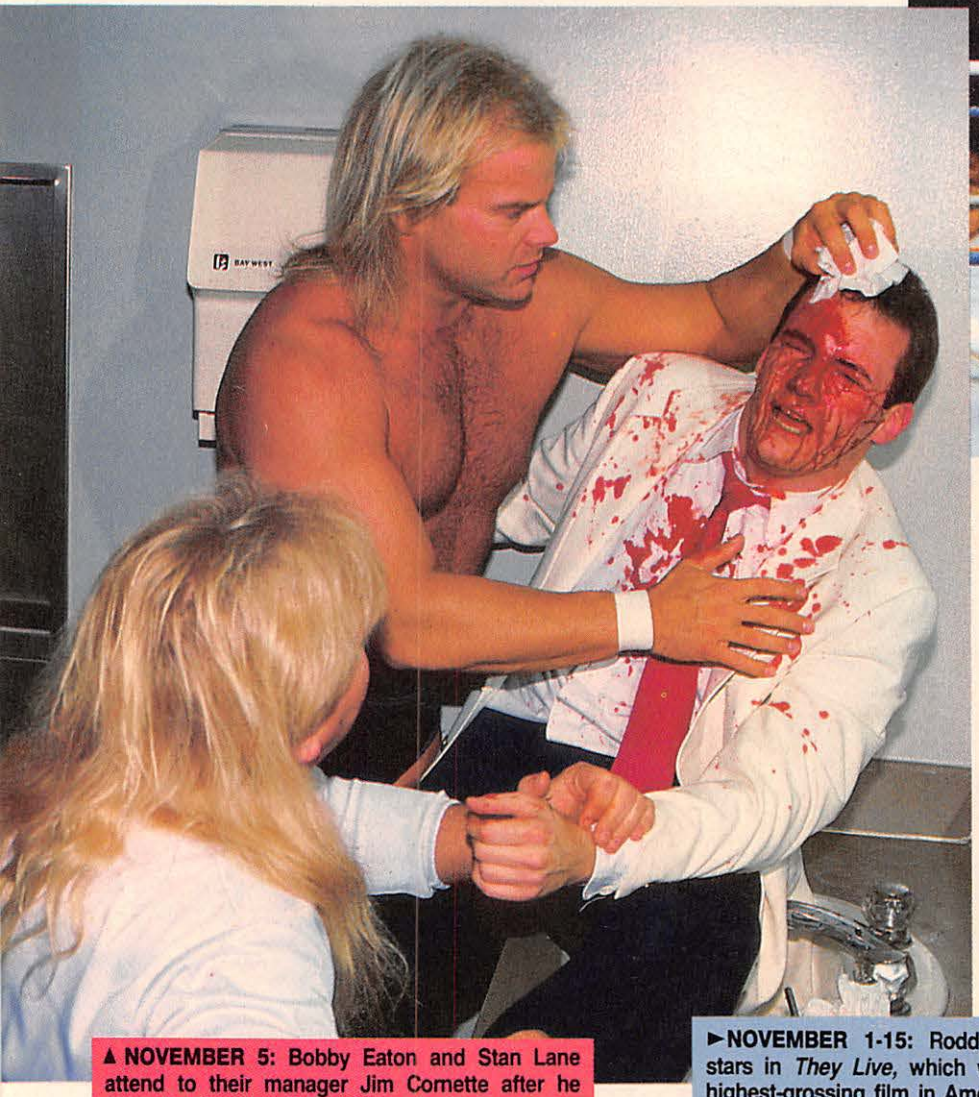




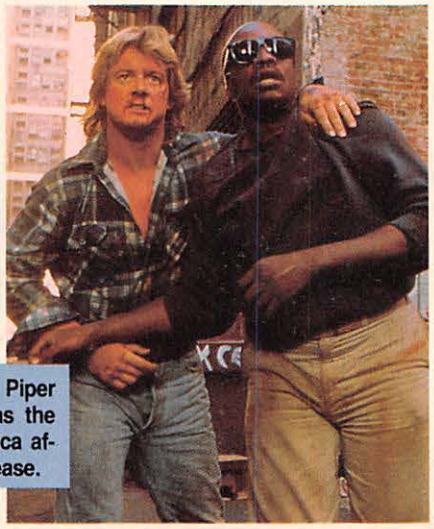
◄**NOVEMBER 24:** The Powers of Pain hoist Mr. Fuji on their shoulders after winning the tag team portion of The Survivor Series. Fuji had double-crossed Demolition earlier in the bout.



▲ **NOVEMBER 24:** New WWF arrivals Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson—The Brainbusters—suplex Marty Jannetty at The Survivor Series.



▲ **NOVEMBER 5:** Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane attend to their manager Jim Cornette after he was bloodied by Paul E. Dangerously and his "Original" Midnight Express in a nasty sneak-attack.



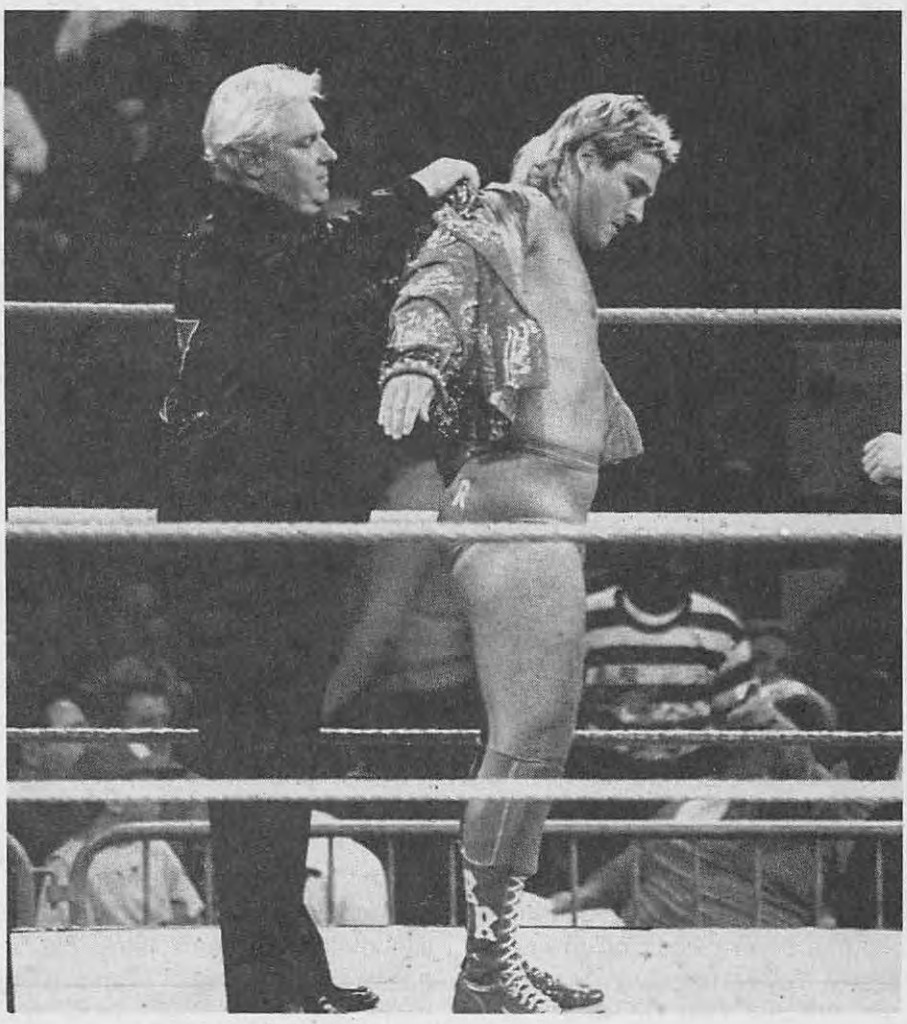
►**NOVEMBER 1-15:** Roddy Piper stars in *They Live,* which was the highest-grossing film in America after its first two weeks in release.

"Brain" washed!

IS THERE ANY TERRY TAYLOR LEFT IN THE RED ROOSTER?

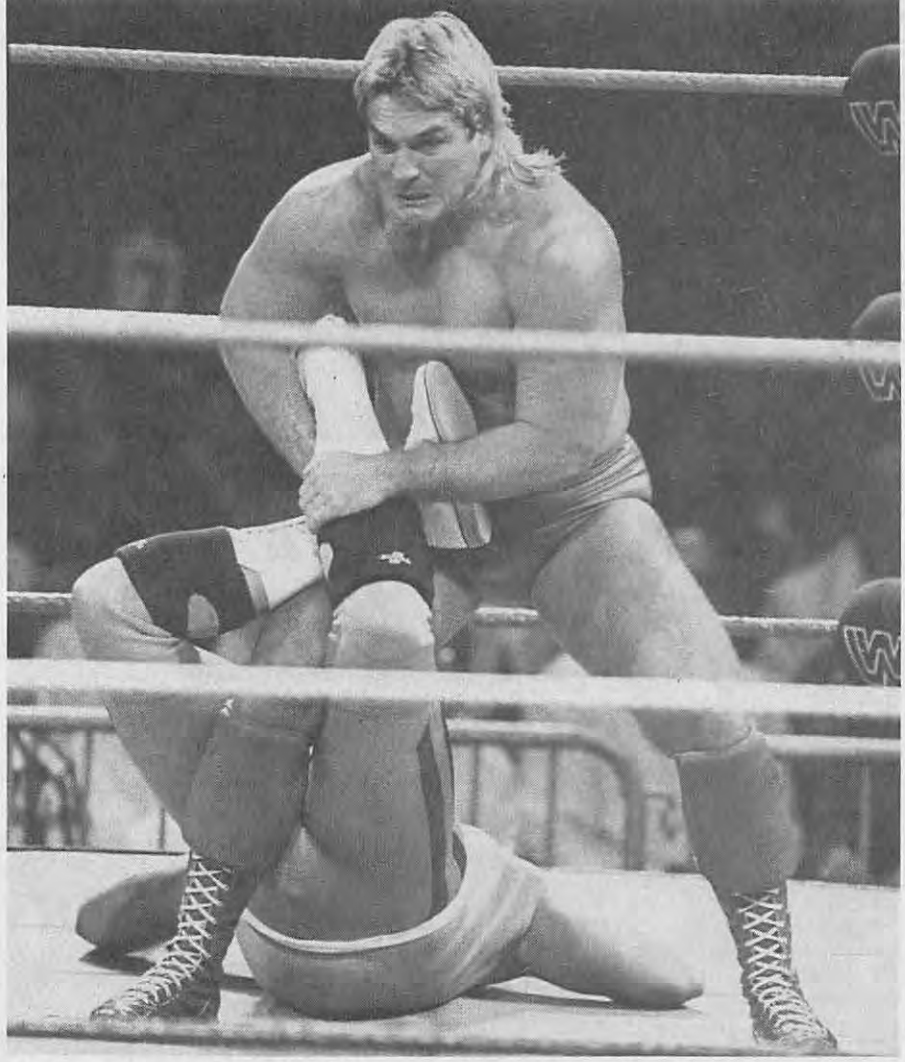
TERRY TAYLOR has cracked—cracked like a proverbial egg. Since entering the WWF several months ago under the inexplicable moniker of "Red Rooster," Taylor maintains a winning record in the ring, but out of it resembles a psychological shell of his former self.

Who is this Taylor? Certainly not the same cocky, ego-brandishing rulebreaker who plagued the NWA, UWF, and World Class areas in years passed. Nor does he conjur memories of the popular, spirited scientific grappler who thrilled fans and critics before turning bad. This Taylor is a meek and submissive flunkey of Bobby Heenan, servile and fawning and altogether incapable of independent action. Like a wimpering puppy dog anxious to please its master, Taylor shuffles behind Heenan, holding the ring ropes open for him valet-style. Once inside the ring, Taylor's eyes never stray far from his manager. Each move is accompanied by a sickening plea for approval. "Am I doing all right? Am I doing okay?" his wide, saucery eyes beg.



Bobby Heenan helps Terry Taylor—or "Little Red Rooster," as he's now known—take off his warmup jacket. Taylor has become a different person under Heenan's direction.

The career of Terry Taylor, a complex saga of triumph and humiliation, is approaching still another confusing crossroads



Taylor's scorpion leglock (above) was something he learned on his own, not from his manager. Taylor applies a wristlock on Koko B. Ware (right). Taylor is still an outstanding scientific wrestler, but is that phase of his game slowly fading away?

Heenan is often disgusted with Taylor, sometimes leaving the ring without waiting for his newest charge. Demanding nothing less than the utmost brutality, Heenan has driven Taylor into an unthinking, sadistic fist machine. Those fans who've followed Taylor's career may recall that benevolent scientific grappler whose major shortcoming inside the ring was his inability to inflict punishment. The burial of that *peacenik* began in the UWF during the time Taylor spent in the fold of Eddie Gilbert. Now, mesmerized by the svengali-like powers of Bobby Heenan, the lid has been placed on the coffin. Terry Taylor appears dead; long squawk the Red Rooster.

It wasn't always like this. In his sophomore campaign seven years ago, Taylor wrestled NWA champion Ric Flair to a time-limit draw, earning rare praise from the champion.

"I have seen the future of the NWA and its name is Terry Taylor," Flair hyperbolized afterward. "He has the physical tools to be a great wrestler, a champion. I only question his heart. Will the years erode his resolve? Can he remain mentally tough and alert? There are plenty of good wrestlers out there. To become great requires something extra."

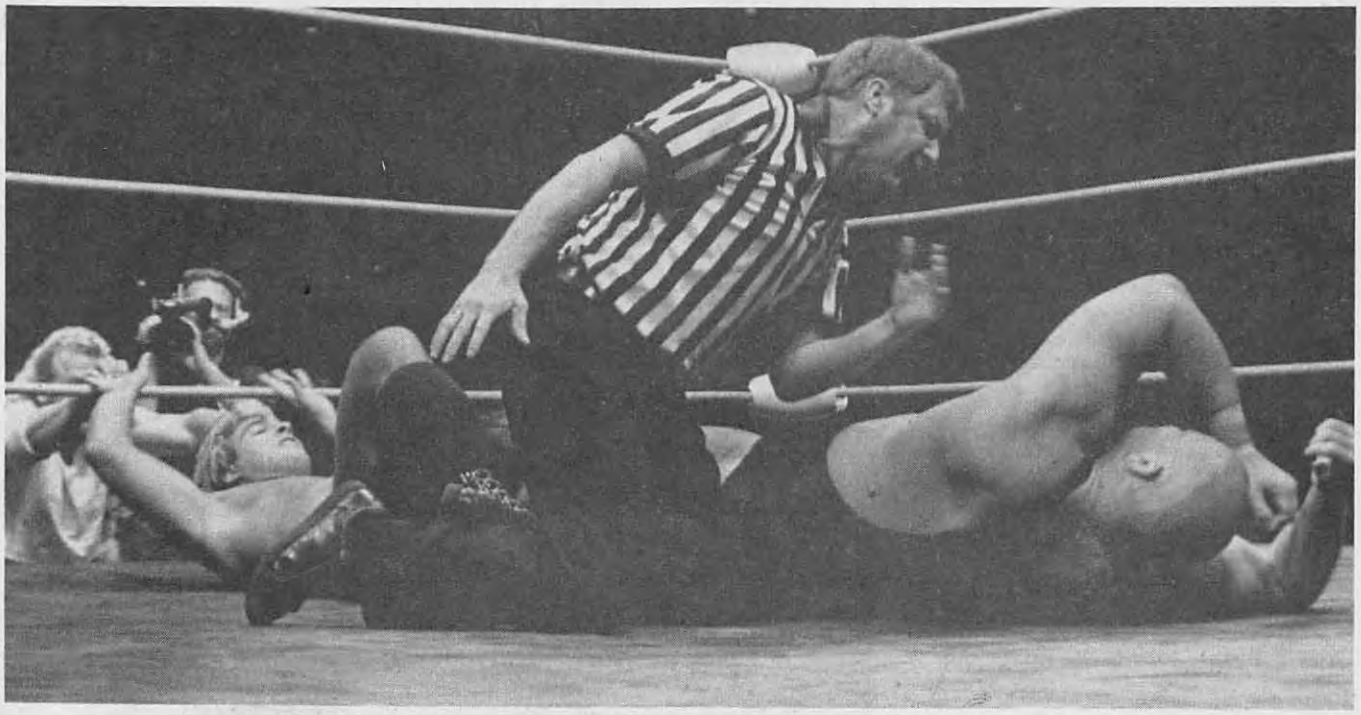
Years passed and Terry Taylor's resolve remained in question. The rollercoaster he charted for fame repeatedly gained and lost momentum. Finally, in an unusual title match six years later, Flair's questions were answered definitively.

Preparing for a TV unification title match against Nikita Koloff, UWF champion Taylor labeled the Russian behemoth a "lying, yellow-streaked Red whose duty it is to die by my hand." His outbursts shocked the wrestling press, who felt Taylor was overmatched and risked injury going into the match. To further provoke the giant Russian could only result in more serious injury. In a close decision, Taylor lost the match and the title but enhanced his reputation by banging Koloff around the ring, despite being outweighed by almost 50 pounds.

"He did not give up," Koloff said later. "He showed lots of heart."

After good—but not great—years (including tenures as Georgia National, North American, and World Class champion), Taylor accepted a lucrative contract and jumped to the WWF. Acquiring the services of Bobby "The Brain" Heenan seemed to indicate an end to the years Taylor would spend flirting with major championships. Expecting Heenan to straighten his up-and-down career, oddsmakers immediately installed Taylor as a 4-1 shot to capture the Intercontinental belt.

"Taylor is uniquely qualified to win the Intercontinental," says Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum. "He has fought and defeated



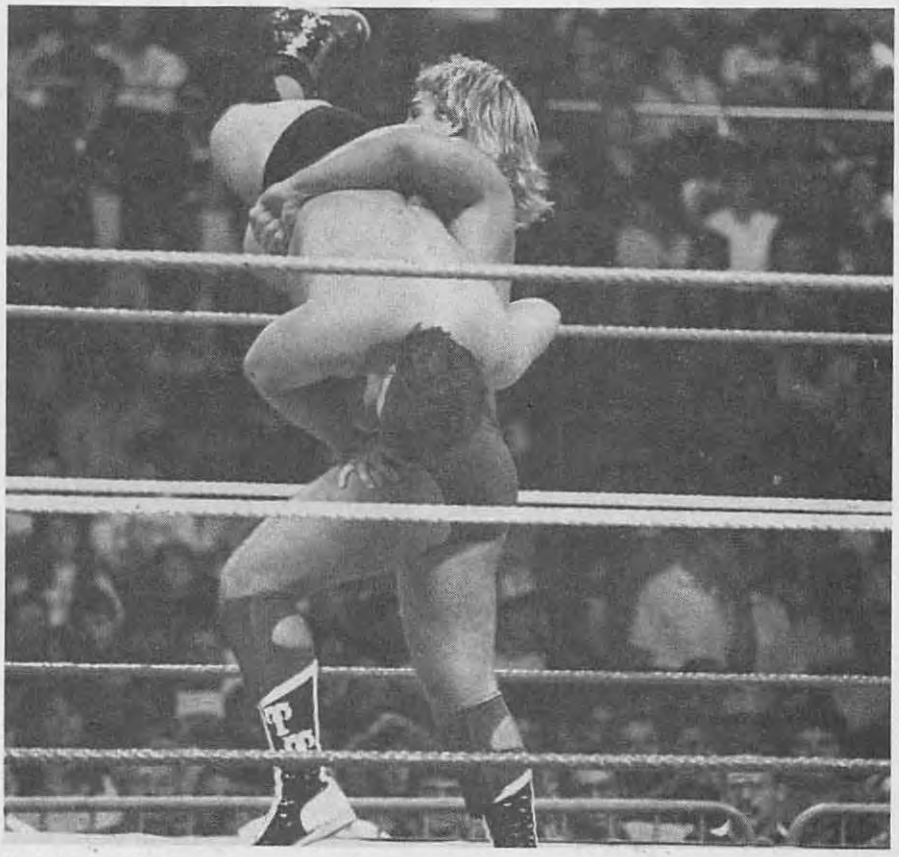
Taylor, with the help of Eddie Gilbert, applies a figure-four leglock on Nikita Koloff at Starrcade '87 (above) and goes for a suplex in a WWF match (below). While in the NWA, Taylor was a top contender for a major title; now he's going nowhere in the WWF while blindly following Heenan.

some of the world's best wrestlers yet is underestimated wherever he goes. He's always wrestled above his weight. He can surprise someone like Ultimate Warrior."

Rosenbaum is not alone in his enthusiastic assessment of Taylor's physical capabilities. Compliments about Taylor's potential have swirled since Flair sang his praises seven years ago. But no one counted on him turning out like he has. No one counted on the mysterious appearance of Red Rooster.

"Heenan must really have sold Taylor a bill of goods," suggests a former World Class partner, who requested anonymity. "Although Taylor became more violent in the past year, he was never one for gimmicks. Heenan must have told him that if you don't have an unusual character it is very difficult to establish an identity in today's WWF. He probably said that no one would notice Terry Taylor—he was too bland. Heenan must have convinced Taylor it was the only move that made any sense. I can't believe Terry Taylor is pleased with this arrangement.

"Unfortunately, it may be too late to undo the damage. Heenan seems to possess complete psychological control over Taylor. Taylor cannot go to the bathroom without first asking 'The Brain' for permission. If and when Taylor comes to his senses, however, he will have it in for Bobby Heenan. You can bet on that."



Who will it be? Who will emerge as the next rising young star of the goofy-character-plagued WWF? Will it be Terry Taylor: promising young professional—or the passive Red Rooster: evil zombie? □

INTERVIEW

ROBERT FULLER

THE WEEKLY TELEVISION listings claim the program is called ***CWA Championship Wrestling****, but if you didn't know any better you'd swear it was* ***The Robert Fuller Show****. That's because Fuller has dominated the telecasts for months.*

Fuller and his handpicked band of rulebreakers, The Stud Stable, have interfered in dozens of matches and broken up scores of interviews with sneak-attacks, causing injuries to men such as Jeff Jarrett and Todd Morton. After nine months of such carnage, it's starting to seem like the CWA might indeed be Fuller's show.

That's exactly the way he wants it. Lusting for power, the 6'5", 255-pound veteran returned to Memphis in April. Soon afterward, Jerry Lawler won the AWA World title, which took "The King" away from the area. Fuller saw the time was right to attempt to take over the CWA.

How could the "Tennessee Stud" accomplish such a lofty goal? Certainly not on his own. Fuller, an exceptionally wealthy man, has been buying all the talent he can get his hands on. He's signed contracts with Jimmy Golden, Downtown Bruno, Phil Hickerson, Brickhouse Brown, and Gary Young. He's recruited Cactus Jack and The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs, and he's introduced Sylvia, his interfering valet. It wasn't long before the Stable controlled the CWA's roster of titles.

Fuller's massive ego has gotten in his way at times, as Brown, Young, Cactus Jack, and Hickerson have all fled the Stable. Fuller managed to offset their losses by signing up former Pacific Northwest champion Mike Miller, and an incredible 6'8", 318-pound newcomer named Sid Vicious. The ink hadn't even dried on their contracts when controversy erupted during a TV taping.

Robert Fuller is the leader of The Stud Stable, a brutal band of rulebreakers who are out to dominate the CWA. They've done some vicious things lately—like breaking the neck of Bill Dundee's son, Jamie.

Fuller and his Stable attacked Bill Dundee during an interview, which prompted Dundee's 17-year-old son, Jamie, to jump on Fuller's back. Vicious pulled Jamie off and delivered a brutal Japanese cobra hold, breaking the youngster's neck. Shockingly, Fuller usually enjoys these kinds of heinous attacks!

Sports Review Wrestling *Managing Editor Craig Peters traveled to Memphis to speak with Fuller, who currently holds the CWA tag team title with Golden.*

Q: Robert, I'll tell you right now that I find it very hard to sit in the same room with you after what you and Vicious did to Jamie Dundee. My God, a 300-pound man attacking a 120-pound boy! I'm sure you're very proud of yourself now, aren't you?

A: What's the matter with you, Peters? You don't have your facts right, son. If you get a look at the tape, it was that snot-nosed punk that attacked *me*.

Q: That's true, but what did you expect him to do after five Stud Stable members ganged up on his father? What was that attack supposed to prove, anyway?

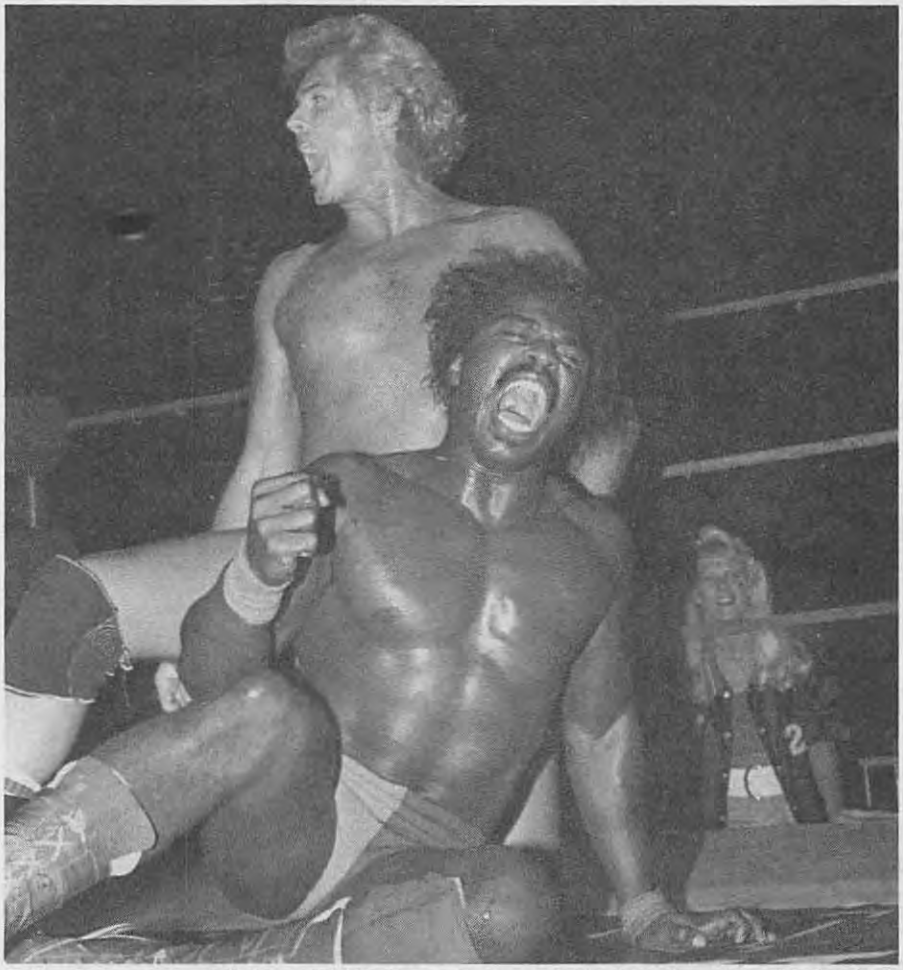
A: It proves that The Stud Stable is and always *will* be number one, daddy. Dundee had been shooting off his mouth for too long. He'd been puttin' the bad-mouth on Sylvia, too, and *nobody* says nasty stuff about my woman. Big Sid Vicious, that star in the making, he just gave that little jerk what was comin' to him, as far as *I'm* concerned. Snapped that scrawny neck o' his like a twig. I'll bet daddy Dundee will think twice about talkin' trash about me ever again.

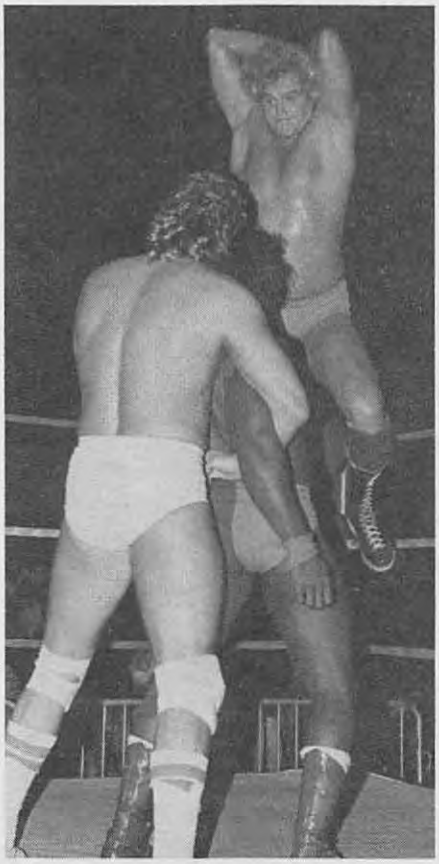
Q: Somehow, I doubt that. I *am* impressed with Sid Vicious, though. He's one of the most talented big men I've seen in years. Where did you find this monster?

A: That's for me to know, son. I'm telling you and the world, baby, that Mr. Vicious is gonna be the hottest new big man to hit wrestling in years. What a combination of speed, size, and pure brutality—and I've got him! The Stud Stable is now complete, and we're all very happy right now.

Q: I know some *old* Stable members who aren't quite so happy. Brickhouse Brown, Cactus Jack, and Gary Young would all like a piece of your hide because of the things you've done to them—especially Brickhouse.

A: Who cares? The Stud Stable was created as a money-making machine, one that provides an incredible income for both myself and the members that are lucky enough to be involved. Brown, Jack, and Young weren't holding up their end of the bargain, and they had to be let go. Hey, any big corporation makes personnel changes, right? It just so happens that people get hurt whenever I make a big decision. Hurt *bad*. *(laughs)* If those guys can't take the heat, they obviously weren't worthy of being Stable members, anyhow.





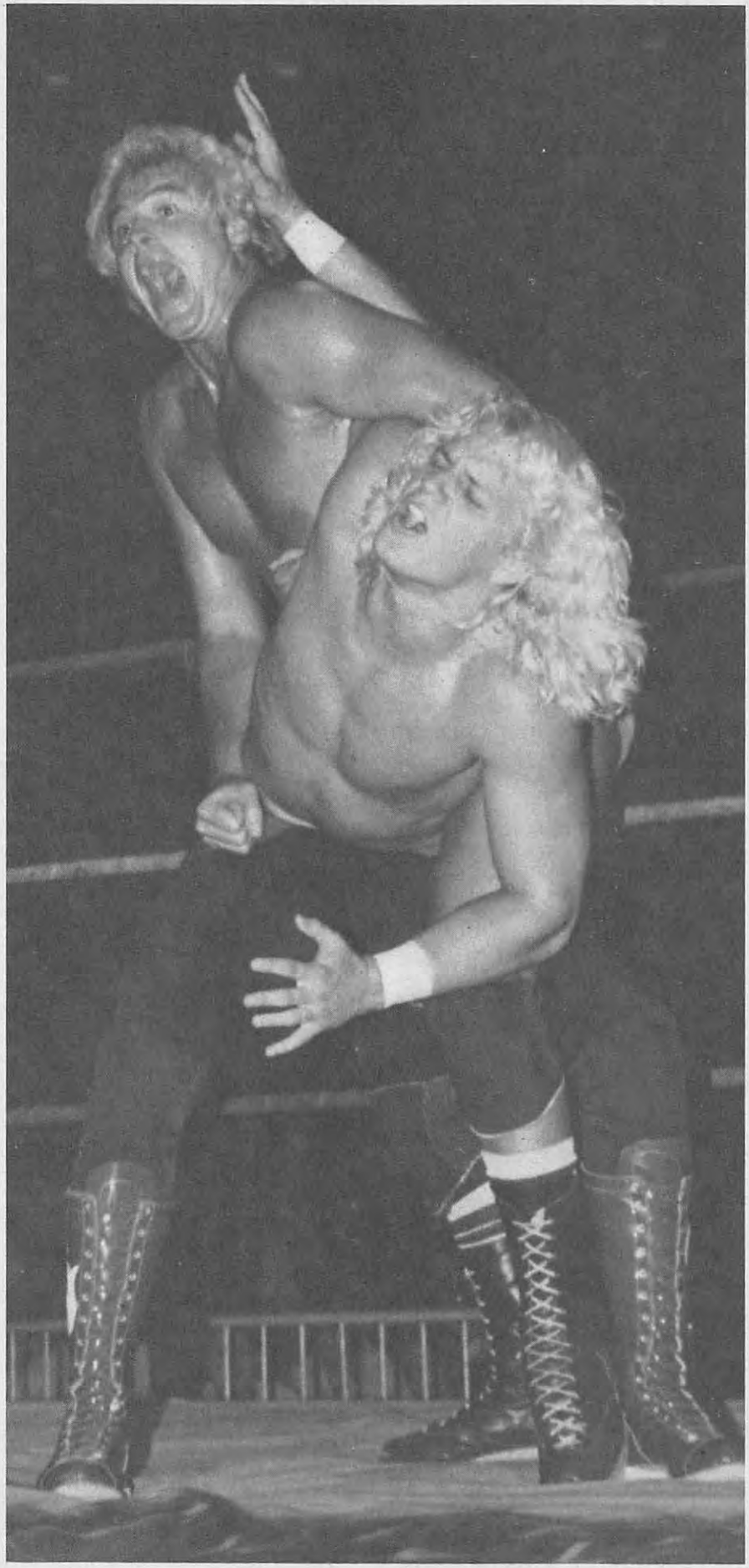
Fuller deals out the punishment to Brickhouse Brown, a former member of The Stud Stable, as Fuller's valet, Sylvia, looks on (above). Jimmy Golden holds Brown while Fuller delivers a flying axhandle (below).

Q: But now you've got Brown teaming up with your other enemies, such as Jeff Jarrett, Dundee, and Brian Lee . . .

A: *Arrgh!* Don't mention that lowdown Brian Lee to me!

Q: Why not? He's the new CWA champion, and he beat one of your Stable members, Mike Miller, to win the title on television.

A: Lee didn't beat *nobody*. The only reason that young punk got a



Fuller puts the abdominal stretch on Jeff Jarrett. Jarrett has vowed to run The Stud Stable out of the CWA. Fuller says Jarrett is hardly worth worrying about.

chance at that title anyway is because I wasn't entered in the tourney.

Q: And the only reason that the tourney was set up in the first place is because Phil Hickerson, the former champ and yet *another* former Stable member, had disappeared. The rumor going around is that he got fed up with all your demands and just walked away for good, giving up his CWA title in the process.

A: That's a load of bull, son. Phil is just away on a little vacation—yeah, a *vacation,* that's it. Anyway, what were we talkin' about? Oh yeah, I'm trying to get a match between that Lee kid and myself. He's *exactly* the kind of wrestler I hate. You know, the kind of cute blond fellow that the girls out there love, but one that has no business bein' a wrestler at all. You know, just like that other towheaded twerp, Jeff Jarrett. I think it's high time I became the CWA champion. Don't you agree?

Q: Right. Speaking of titles, you and Golden currently hold the CWA tag team championship. It seems like Todd Morton and Bill Dundee are the top contenders to your belts, but Jack and Young would just love to get their hands on you.

A: Jack and Young? *Ha!* They're old news, son. We beat them in a loser-leave-town match, so we don't have to put up with their guff anymore. And don't make me laugh with that Dundee and Morton stuff, will ya? God, ask me questions about The Stud Stable, at least.

Q: All right. Why do you people continually interfere for each other? Why does Sylvia use that potentially lethal kendo stick against men that *you're* wrestling? Now, Robert, you're a pretty big man. Don't you have any confidence in your own abilities?

A: You know, I oughta slap you right where you sit, you idiot. But since this interview provides me with some long-overdue publicity, I'll

(Continued on page 60)

A VON ERICH EXTRAVAGANZA!

The Von Erich family has long been known as "The First Family Of Professional Wrestling." Now, a deluxe-quality videotape and collectors' edition hardcover book bring all the excitement, drama, tragedy, and triumph of the Von Erichs into your home!

THE VON ERICHS: FRONT ROW RINGSIDE is an up-close and personal look at the Von Erich legend culled from the extensive video library of World Class Championship Wrestling and featuring at-home interviews with Kerry, Kevin, Mike, and Fritz. This program will be a valuable addition to your videotape collection. (Sorry, VHS format only is available in this special offer.) Included in this sensational 70-minute tape:

- The entire June 1, 1982, Fritz Von Erich no-disqualification retirement match against King Kong Bundy.
- The complete March 4, 1983, Kevin Von Erich-Terry Gordy match in which Kevin won the World Class American belt!
- Highlights of David Von Erich battling Jim Garvin, Kamala, and Harley Race.
- The entire May 6, 1984, bout in which Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair at Texas Stadium in front of 43,518 fans.
- Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.
- Rare footage of Chris Von Erich; Fritz vs. Joe Blanchard; David spanking Sunshine; six-man action featuring Mike, Lance, & Kevin, and David, Kevin, and Kerry; and Mike's hospitalization from toxic shock syndrome.

THE VON ERICHS: A FAMILY ALBUM is a magnificent history of the *entire* Von Erich family in words and pictures. Subtitled "Tragedies And Triumphs Of America's First Family Of Wrestling," the book chronicles Fritz, Doris, Kevin, David, Kerry, Mike, and Chris—plus rare photos of Jack—in over 100 black-and-white photographs and 32 pages of dazzling color photography. Many of these photos are from the Von Erich personal family scrapbooks (including many baby photos and school portraits) and have *never* been published anywhere—until now! This beautifully designed hardcover volume measures 8½x11 and is 128 pages in length. You'll be proud to add this to your personal library.

SPECIAL OFFER!

You might expect to spend upwards of $59.95 or $69.95 for a Von Erich videotape of this quality, or $20.00 or more for the Von Erich family scrapbook. But in this special magazine offer, you can get *The Von Erichs: Front Row Ringside* for the low price of only $29.95 (plus $3.00 postage and handling), and *The Von Erichs: A Family Album* for the low price of just $13.95 (plus $2.00 postage and handling).

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Up Close And Personal:

Assistant Editor Bob Smith speaks with a fan during a question-and-answer session as "A Weekend With The Champions" kicked off at The Stevensville Country Club in Swan Lake, New York.

AUTUMN IS ONE of the most beautiful times of the year, particularly in New York's Catskills. Thousands of travelers flock to this region's resorts each fall for a relaxing vacation featuring top entertainment, delicious food, and some of the most beautiful scenery to be found anywhere. It's a terrific way to get some rest and relaxation.

Most of the time, anyway.

"Catskills? I *never* come back again!" screamed The Iron Sheik after his first visit there. "This is no place for fine Iranian citizen to be. *Bah!* There are too many American wrestling fans around!"

At least there were during one recent weekend. And despite the Sheik's complaints, the first weekend in November 1988 was a time many fans will long remember. The Stevensville Country Club in Swan Lake, New York, presented "A Weekend With The Champions," a three-day wrestling event hosted by The Trans-World Wrestling Federation, Rapp Enterprises, and Mr. and Mrs. Rocky Johnson.

"I believe this event was the start of

A WEEKEND WITH THE CHAMPIONS!

It was a weekend that many fans will long remember. A top resort in the scenic Catskill mountains of upstate New York hosted an unforgettable weekend of wrestling excitement. If you missed it, don't despair—join *Sports Review Wrestling* for an exclusive look at all the action!

A group of happy Sgt. Slaughter fans show who's number one while enjoying an action-packed evening of wrestling. The Saturday evening card was enjoyed by all.

a welcome new trend," said Johnson, a former WWF tag team champion, as the weekend drew to a close. "What a concept—merging a top resort with the world's greatest sport."

For three days, fans mingled freely with the wrestlers. Several autograph sessions and other special events were scheduled so fans could get to know the stars on a personal basis. The weekend culminated with a nine-match card featuring no less than eight current or former champions. It was a fan's dream come true.

The festivities began on Friday evening with a question-and-answer session hosted by *Sports Review Wrestling* Senior Editor Bill Apter and Assistant Editor Bob Smith. The journalists interviewed Johnson and his brother, current Canadian champion Ricky Johnson; current NWF champion Chief Jules Strongbow; and 6'8", 338-pound newcomer Yukon Jack. Trouble erupted, however, when Apter asked fans for their input.

One fan asked each wrestler who their toughest opponent has been. Another fan brought up the name of The Iron Sheik—which only prompted the

excitable Sheik to storm the front of the lounge.

"No way either Johnson brother can stand up to talents of Iranian legend," the Sheik screamed into the microphone. "I take you both on right now, you coward Americans. I show you why I am former WWF World champion. I show you how tough I am, you yellow dogs."

Sheik's remarks incensed Rocky and Ricky, who had to be restrained from attacking the Iranian right there. "I'm very sorry this had to happen," Rocky Johnson said afterward. "This segment was intended to be an informational forum, not a wrestling match. I'm glad we were prevented from fighting—but one of these days, we're gonna teach that Sheik a lesson in manners."

After the forum, an autograph session was conducted where fans could collect the signatures of more than 15 wrestling personalities. It had been an exciting start—but the best was yet to come.

On Saturday, fans took advantage of the numerous sports facilities at the resort, including an Olympic-sized swimming pool and workout room. There was also a karate demonstration featuring the Johnson brothers. The evening's entertainment, however, was what *everyone* was waiting for.

An exciting wrestling card featured many veteran stars as well as some rising young talent. The opening bout pitted sensational rookie T.C. Reynolds against veteran Lumberjack Pierre, yet another former WWF tag team champion. Reynolds dominated the early part of the bout with his quickness and scientific skills—until Pierre used the ring ropes to score an illegal pin.

Other matches saw The Haiti Kid defeat The Irish Leprechaun in a midget match; Yukon Jack quickly disposed of Sheik Farouk Ali, who also lost to The Tonga Kid later in the evening; and Strongbow wrestled to a draw with George Skaaland, son of Arnold Skaaland, former manager of Bob Backlund and Bruno Sammartino. Both Johnson brothers were victorious in singles bouts.

A major surprise was the appearance of Samu, half of the World Class tag team champions, The Samoan Swat Team. Samu came all the way from Texas to team with his father, Afa, to defeat The Russian Scorpions. Samu delivered the most impressive maneuver of the evening, an amazing split-legged dropkick which nailed both Russians—one with each foot!

The Tonga Kid dives onto Sheik Farouk Ali, who probably enjoyed the weekend less than most other fans and wrestlers. Ali lost two matches in the same night; he also was defeated by Yukon Jack.

The main event pitted Sgt. Slaughter against the Sheik, his most hated enemy. True to form, Sheik produced a foreign object early in the match, which he kept hidden in his trunks until Slaughter locked him in his cobra clutch. The use of the object prompted the referee to disqualify the Iranian, a decision which thrilled the hundreds of fans who jammed the resort's Starlight Room Theatre.

After a hearty breakfast and lunch on Sunday, the wrestlers and fans bade a fond farewell to the Stevensville Country Club. It was a truly unique weekend; several wrestlers called it one of the highlights of their careers.

"Many times, you get to wrestle in front of thousands of people, but you never get the chance to really *meet* them," said Reynolds. "But I left this weekend with a whole new perspective. I got an understanding of how the fans feel about the sport—and I made many new friends as well. I hope another event like this is scheduled soon—and that I get to be a part of it!" □

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Wrestling

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September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.
February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.
May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.
September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.
November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.
December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.
January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.
February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.
March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.
April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.
October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.
December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.
February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.
May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.
July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny.
August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*, Valentine.
February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.
May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A, Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny.
October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.
November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny.
January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
February 1987/Road Warriors,Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.
May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny.
November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.
December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card
January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
April 1988/1987 In Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.
June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.
July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.
September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.
October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.
November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.
December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.
January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.
February 1989/The Champions in '89, Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 7)

Referee Dick Kroll climbs back into the ring after being knocked out by the wrestlers. Reader Delmer Frasure says the refs should toughen up.

referees are knocked completely out by a simple push or shove by a wrestler. This occurs especially in the NWA.

Once, I saw an NWA referee get knocked unconscious when Steve Williams pushed Mike Rotundo's foot into the ref's face. There wasn't even enough force in the "kick" to dent an aluminum can! Nonetheless, the referee laid there for five minutes completely knocked out!

I believe *I'd* pass out if I ever saw a ref get up from even the *weakest* of blows! Either they're bought off, or they're just wimps!

DELMER FRASURE JR.
Grethel, KY

Though she removed her skirt at SummerSlam, Elizabeth remains a role model for young women, writes Tracy Hart.

ELIZABETHIAN

I have watched wrestling for more than 10 years and I've watched all the federations. Something I've been reading in your magazines encouraged me to write. It has to do with SummerSlam 88.

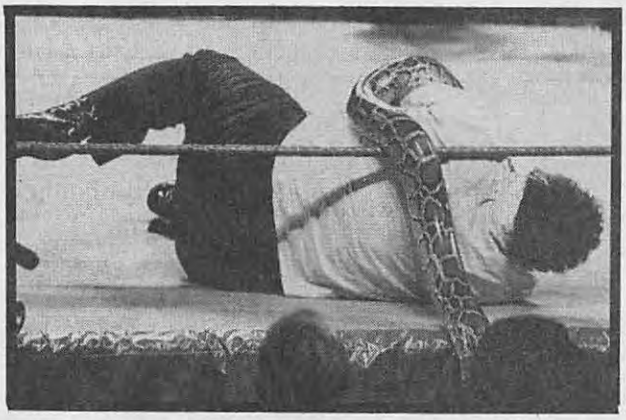
In the final match pitting The Megapowers vs. The Megabucks, Elizabeth removed her skirt and revealed her legs. What's the big deal? I've seen Jimmy Hart hit people with his megaphone, Mr. Fuji hit people with his cane, and J.J. Dillon hit people with his shoe. Nobody criticizes them!

I think Elizabeth is a positive image for young ladies no matter *what* she did. She has proven she is dedicated to

(Continued on page 56)

THIS MONTH IN...

The Wrestler



ANDRE THE GIANT is scared stiff as he howls to the wrestling world: "Don't say snake!"

RIC FLAIR answers his critics: "You've got me all wrong!"

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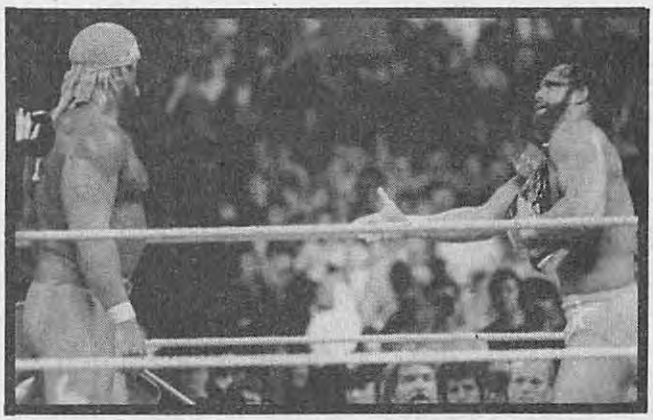
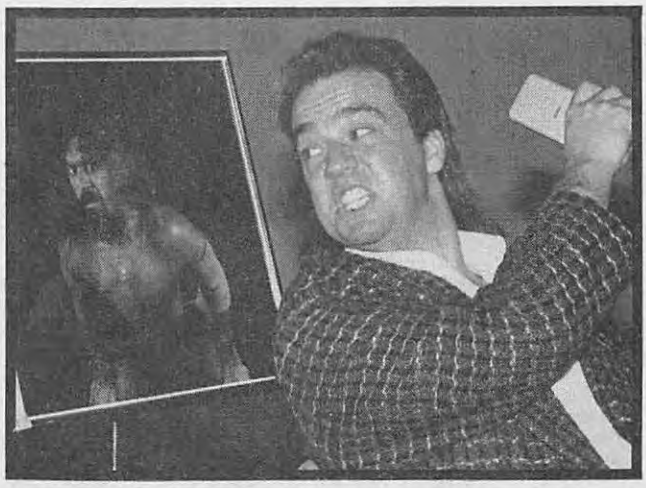


Has **RANDY SAVAGE** signed to wrestle **HULK HOGAN** at WrestleMania V?



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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 54)

Randy Savage. How many managers do you know of who are really dedicated to their men? Not many.

I hope when I get a little older I will be as intelligent as the first lady of wrestling, the lovely Elizabeth.

TRACY HART
Dayton, OH

A GREAT MAN

I am writing this to tell everyone about a great man. For about 5½ years, I have always wanted to meet this great man, but I never had the chance. I have always been a true fan of his, and I don't like it when I hear people bad-mouthing him. I have met a lot of wrestlers in my life, but I have never met a man for whom I have as much respect as I do for Robert Gibson.

There is a six-year-old girl named Kelly Kiser who is dying. Her only dream was to meet the members of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Robert Gibson himself came to Johnson City, Tennessee, to see Kelly and make her dream come true.

A champion is someone who does what they say they'll do. Gibson is truly a champion. In years to come, I will still remember Robert for what he has done in the ring, but mostly because he is a great man.

BOBBIE BRITT
Johnson City, TN

DISGUSTING

I am writing about a match I saw between AWA World champion Jerry Lawler and CWA manager Downtown Bruno. The way this "match" came about was disgraceful and unprofessional of both Mr. Lawler and the entire federation.

Lawler's assigned opponent was supposed to be Buddy Landell, but

(Continued on page 58)

When Robert Gibson went out of his way to comfort a dying girl, he left a lasting impression on Bobbie Britt. She will always think of Gibson as a champion.

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January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

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May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

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May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 56)

Jerry Lawler doesn't deserve any credit for defending his AWA title against manager Downtown Bruno, because Bruno's not a wrestler, writes Walter Petty.

Landell couldn't make it. After announcing that Landell wouldn't be wrestling, Lawler let the fans decide who his challenger for the title would be. He read all the names on the card and the fans picked Downtown Bruno.

Not only did Lawler defeat Bruno, but he busted him open and refused to cover him for the pin, opting to inflict more punishment. Finally, he piledrived Bruno before pinning him. I can't wait for the day when someone beats Lawler and takes the World belt away from him. He's no king.

WALTER PETTY
Evansville, IN

ON THE MOVE

Am I the only one who noticed how great The Conquistadors were at the Survivor Series? They were phenomenal! By my unscientific count, they were in the ring longer than anyone else. They really wrestled! Whenever Ax or Smash of Demolition needed a breather, who did they call? A Conquistador, that's who!

It's not often that a team can actually dish out punishment to a pair of

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brawlers like Warlord and Barbarian, but The Conquistadors did it. They almost won their Survivor Series match, but had to settle for a second-place finish because Mr. Fuji interfered on the behalf of The Powers of Pain.

I'm sure that we'll be hearing a lot from The Conquistadors in the months

The Conquistadors, double-teaming Shawn Michaels, did a tremendous job at the Survivor Series, writes David Klinghoffer.

to come. I know *I* was impressed by their stamina, their venom, and their wrestling ability. They can go far in the WWF.

DAVID KLINGHOFFER
New York

MIND OVER MATTER

I'm writing to agree with a letter by Sonya Vangosen ("Big Where It Counts") printed in your December 1988 issue.

I recently attended a WWF card and saw The Rockers wrestle two guys much bigger than them. The Rockers, a team you said was too small for the WWF, were victorious. Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty were fast and used so many impressive aerial moves that their bulky opponents were completely befuddled. The Rockers scored the easy pin.

The Rockers are climbing the WWF tag team ladder slowly, but they're definitely climbing. Beating Demolition will be tough, but if Michaels and Jannetty put their minds to it, they can accomplish anything.

MENG PHONG
Baltimore□

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INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 48)

Cactus Jack, who quit the Stable, rubs barbed wire against Fuller's scalp.

try to be a good boy. The Stable just does the same kind of thing people like Lawler and Jarrett have been doin' for years. The only difference is that we're not hypocrites about it. We tell everybody straight up front that we're gonna beat 'em up, and then we go out and do it. People complain that I'm too rough, but I always win, don't I?

Q: Not always. You've *never* beaten Jerry Lawler. In fact, you've fallen right off the list of contenders for the AWA World title.

A: That's a crock of manure, son. I'm still the top man around the CWA, and that should automatically make me the number-one contender for Lawler's title. I'll tell you what. If these Mickey Mouse promoters don't get their act together soon, I'm gonna make a lot of people sorry about it.

Q: I'll bet you will, as long as you have other people carry out your dirty work for you. I don't know why you haven't been fined and suspended indefinitely for everything you've done. And Sylvia really is going overboard with that kendo stick—she nearly killed Cactus Jack with that thing a couple of months ago.

A: That's tough. If you notice, nobody has suspended me yet, and they never will. And don't *ever* talk about my main squeeze that way. Sylvia is the greatest thing that's ever happened to the CWA

fans. She's so beautiful that she makes that other valet, Missy Hyatt, look like a Romper Room teacher. Sylvia's a talented wrestler, too. I'll tell you, she could probably defeat that fool Jeff Jarrett if he'd give her a chance.

Q: If I were you, I'd take it easy with the comments about Jarrett. He's the World Class light heavyweight champion right now, but he still remembers how you broke his arm with that bat. He wants to put you out of wrestling for good.

A: Yeah, sure. Jarrett considers me his great rival or something, but he's such a shrimpy little thing that he's not a great opponent for *anybody*. He's just a waste. I love beatin' him up, 'cause he makes his daddy, Jerry Jarrett, break out in tears. I just *love* seein' ol' Jerry bawlin' all over the place!

Q: Well, Robert, thanks for this interview, but I've got to warn you that you're a marked man. You've got Lawler, Jarrett, Lee, Brown, and especially Dundee all after you,

The Stud Stable prepares to attack Cactus Jack again, this time with a chair.

and I wouldn't be surprised if one of these days The Stud Stable is a thing of the past.

A: Yeah, I'd bet you'd really like that, wouldn't you? But I wouldn't bet your house on it, son. With myself, Sylvia, Sid, Miller, cousin Jimmy, and Downtown Bruno combining forces, the Stable is gonna be number one for as long as I want it to be. And you just *know* that's how I want it, daddy. *Ha!* □

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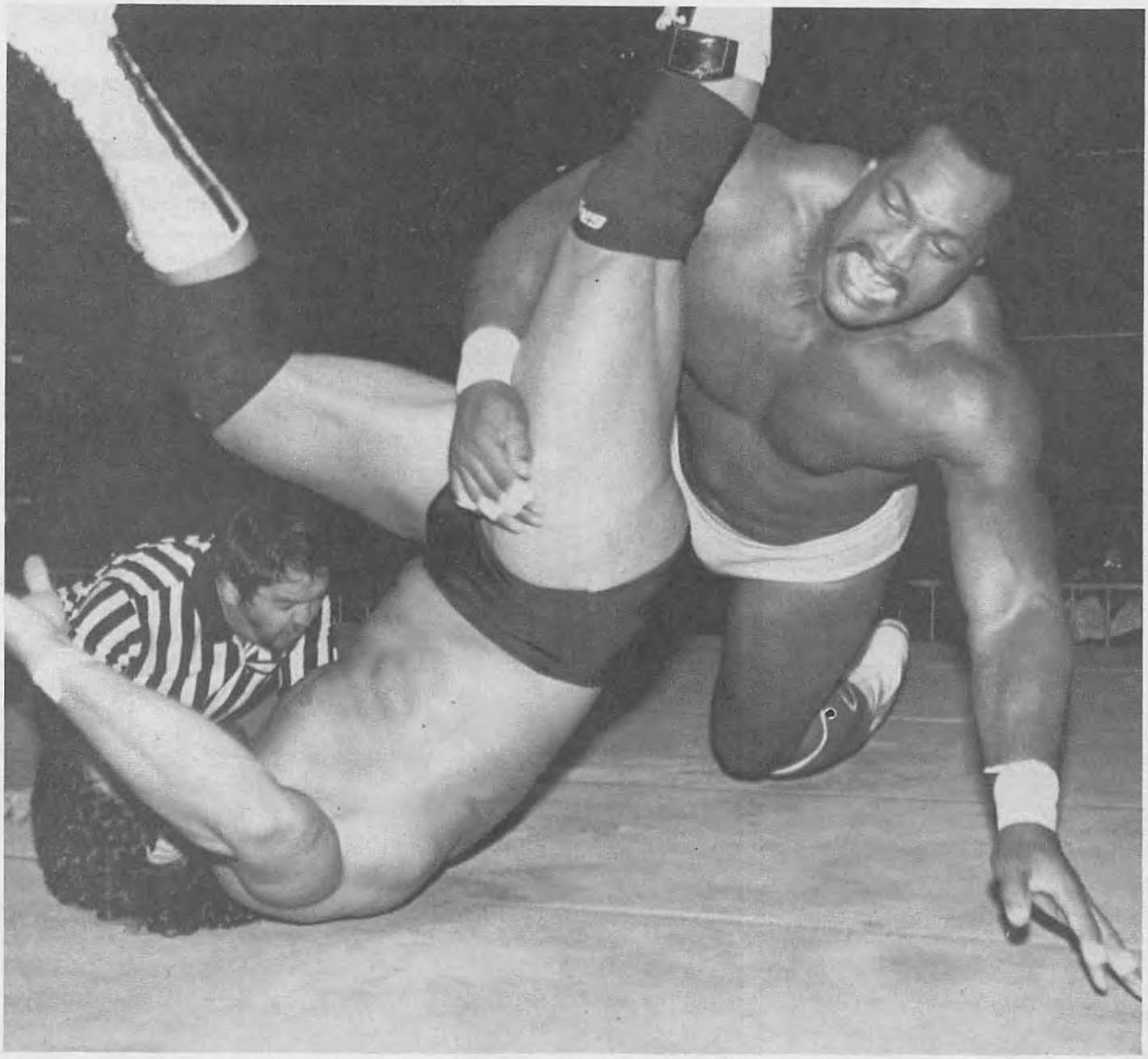
RON SIMMONS

(Continued from page 33)



Simmons rolls Perez into a pin. An undenying belief in himself led Simmons through some tough times. Now he has dedicated his life to helping others.

out having parents to guide him. His mother died of kidney failure as she was giving birth to twins when Simmons was nine years old; three years later, his father left his family.

Things couldn't have been harder for Simmons. He was tempted by drugs. He considered turning to a life of crime. But through it all he never lost faith in his own abilities and ideals.

"I saw a lot of my friends turn to drugs during my teen years," Simmons recalled. "It turned them from productive people to shells of their former selves. Drugs ruined the lives of many people I care about. Instead of joining them in self-destruction, I turned to athletics. It's been a decision I've never regretted for a moment."

Simmons' decision was the right one. He went on to set a score of high school and college football records. He later played in the Canadian Football League and USFL before ending his gridiron career. He had believed that his sporting days were over when he moved on to work for The Department of Corrections in Tampa, Florida. Luckily, he met Japanese matman Hiro Matsuda, who trained him for his pro wrestling career. It was the beginning of a new life.

Now, after more than two years as a pro, Simmons is becoming one of the most feared men in the NWA. He's scored several impressive victories over opponents like Al Perez and Larry Zbyszko in re-

cent months. He attributes his success to his frame of mind since having his number retired.

"Hey, attitude means *everything*," claims Simmons. "If you believe in yourself, you don't *need* drugs or alcohol. You don't need to hit the people who mean the most to you. I'm not going to rest until every fan in the NWA learns what the real deal is. I just hope people don't think I'm trying to preach to them and get put off by it."

Simmons shouldn't worry about that. Since his televised pleas, Simmons' popularity among wrestling fans has multiplied tenfold. In fact, he's been surprised by how many people *want* to hear what he has to say.

"I've been talking to kids at the arenas around the country," Simmons said with a smile. "You know, even though they're small, it doesn't mean they aren't intelligent—in fact, kids are the smartest things there are. If you speak to them and really mean what you're saying, they believe you. Dozens of children have come up to me and told me that they would never take drugs because of what I told them. That's something I really treasure."

And the wrestling world is beginning to treasure Simmons. Other men like Mike Rotundo and Steve Williams continually point at their college accomplishments, but in his own quiet way Simmons has surpassed them both. He's proven that there is still room for compassion, both in wrestling and in the world at large.

"Sure, I'd love to be NWA champion one day," said Simmons. "But fighting drug and child abuse is more important to me. I'd trade all of my athletic accomplishments just to see a country full of happy, healthy kids."

Chances are, there *will* be more happy children than there used to be. The nation can thank Ron Simmons for that. □

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WE ACCUSE

(Continued from page 18)

Hacksaw Duggan whacks Virgil with his 2x4. Wrestling is a dangerous sport, and the danger is being increased by wrestlers who use illegal weapons.

The editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* accuse the heads of all federations for *just not caring*. "Anything for a dollar" seems to be their credo: The fans will pay to see violence of any kind, so merely slap the wrestlers on the wrists when they commit violent acts that would earn them a prison term if committed outside the ring.

We, however, think more of the fans. We think you pay money to see good, clean, exciting wrestling.

According to doctors at the hospital in Atlanta Rhodes was rushed to after the Warriors' attack, Dusty is fortunate he is still alive. "If the spike had penetrated a fraction of an inch further, it would have permeated his skull and gone through his brain," said Dr. Eli Wolberg. "Mr. Rhodes would not be alive right now. As it is, there is a possibility that he will permanently lose all or some of the sight in his right eye."

And the punishment for this act?

Nothing. *Nada.*

"Mr. Rhodes challenged The Road Warriors and therefore, was on his own," said NWA promoter Jim Crockett. "It did not occur during an officially sanctioned match, and therefore there is nothing we can do about it. I would advise Dusty to act more cautiously from now on."

This explanation, of course, is nothing but a copout. Since it didn't occur during an officially sanctioned match, we see no reason why charges can't be pressed against Animal and Hawk. That, of course, will never happen; nor do we believe it should.

Here's what we do believe. Wrestling is a sport involving physical contact. It is always dangerous and it sometimes turns violent. Part of the object of the sport is to wear down, or punish, your opponent to the point where he can be pinned. A wrestler cannot be suspended for trying to injure an opponent with his bare hands; that is part of the sport.

But when foreign objects are used to seriously injure or possibly kill an opponent, we must draw the line. Intentionally using a foreign object for this purpose must draw the stiffest suspensions, ranging from a year for the less serious to permanent banishment for the more serious offenses.

Is this illogical? Are we to condone any action that occurs in wrestling simply because it is a sport? Wrestlers might argue that these punishments are too serious. For them, we have an alternative plan: Simply turn these offending wrestlers over to the mercy of a criminal court. Let's see what *they* have to say.

It's time for fans and honest wrestlers to stand up for their rights. It's time to say to the federations, "We want our sport back!" The madmen and criminals have had it long enough. ☐

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LOCKER ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

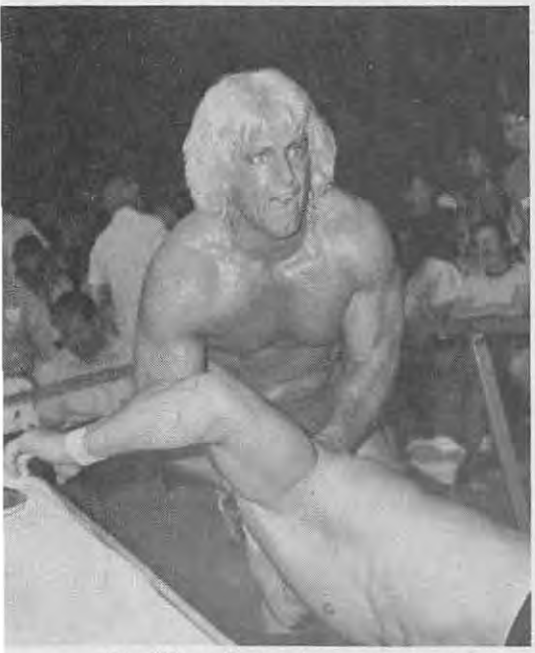
(Continued from page 12)

when he *didn't* have the AWA World championship belt around his waist? "It's been the toughest seven months of my life," Jerry told me. "You know, I look at the belt the same way some people look at their spouses: can't live with it, can't live without it."

. . . Lex Luger now believes that Ric Flair is the greatest wrestler in the world? "I'm bigger, I'm stronger, I'm younger, but he has the experience," Luger said, speaking more candidly than I had ever heard him. "After that match in Baltimore last July, I figured I could beat him any time I wanted to, but he adjusted to my style. He's a cheat, and Dillon interferes too much, but give him a lot of credit: nobody defends a title like Flair."

And did you know that . . .

. . . Kerry Von Erich wrestles more for the fans than for himself? A few weeks ago, I was down in Dallas to see Kerry wrestle Lawler in a non-title cage match. Von Erich pinned Lawler for a somewhat controversial win—a foreign object came into play—and I expected to see a happy Kerry in the dressing room. Boy, was I wrong. "You know, Bill," he said, "the injuries from my accident still hurt once in a while. Maybe they'll never go away, but the fans need me. They come to see me wrestle. It's what keeps me going. I can't let them down."



Ric Flair pulls Lex Luger off the floor and back into the ring. Luger now admits that Flair is the greatest wrestler in the world.

The Rock 'n' Roll Express can't seem to decide whether or not to stay together. Both Rick Morton and Robert Gibson have grumbled about the situation.

. . . Andre the Giant has secretly petitioned the WWF to ban Jake Roberts' pet boa constrictor Damien from ringside? According to a WWF insider, Andre feels that pets of any kind at ringside, especially snakes, give an unfair advantage to the owner of the animal. "This could end up going to court," I was told.

. . . There's trouble within The Rock 'n' Roll Express? "He doesn't show up for matches half the time," Rick Morton told me. "He doesn't show up for matches half the time," Robert Gibson told me. Recently in Las Vegas, the Rock 'n' Rolls were scheduled to take on AWA World tag team champions Bad Company. Morton didn't appear, and Greg Gagne took his place. As it turned out, we almost had new champions: Gagne pinned Paul Diamond, but the belts were given back to Bad Company when it was ruled that Pat Tanaka, not Diamond, was the legal man in the ring.

These are just a few examples of what "Locker Room Confidential" will be about. By its very nature, wrestling never fails to provide us with interesting stories and personalities.

Once you get into the locker room—*if* you can get into the locker room!—those stories and personalities come to life. There's a level of human drama and competition that can't be found anywhere else in the world of sport. It's the world of wrestling—my world—and I'm honored to be able to have you along with me.□

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February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
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October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.
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February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.

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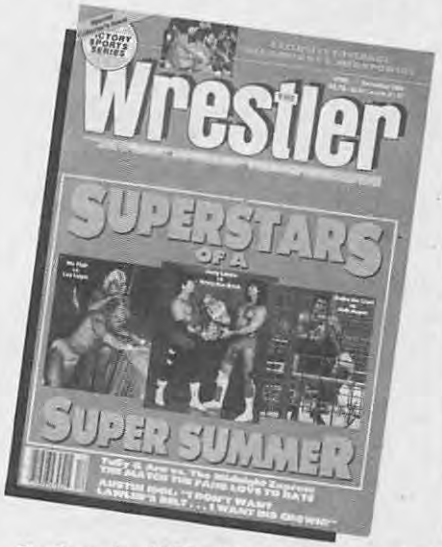

The December 1988 edition of *The Wrestler* was a collectors' dream! It included a dynamic eight-page FULL-COLOR section featuring "The Superstars Of A Super Summer" competing in some of 1988's greatest cards and matches! Included in this exciting full-color section: Hulk Hogan, Sting, Randy Savage, Lex Luger, Rick Rude, The Ultimate Warrior, Jerry Lawler, Ric Flair, Hacksaw Duggan, The Fantastics, Dusty Rhodes, Ted DiBiase, Barry Windham, The Honky Tonk Man, and Nikita Koloff! Also included in this magnificent special issue is a full analysis of the summer's top action, plus all the regular *Wrestler* stories and features. This issue was a newsstand sellout, but we have a limited number of back issues available for the collectors' bargain price of only $5.00 each. Don't be disappointed—order yours today!

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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

tempted to aid Slick, Hogan knocked "The Brain" to the floor. Elizabeth took advantage of the situation by taking the handcuff key from Slick's pocket and unlocking Hogan.

Savage, by this point, was now in deep trouble. Haku dove off the middle rope and came within a fraction of a second of scoring a three-count on the weakened champ. The "Macho Man" managed to kickout but was sent flying backward into the turnbuckle—and into the waiting hand of Hogan.

At this point, Hogan was on a rampage. As Elizabeth attended to the fallen Savage, Hogan finished off Haku, went in for the pin, and scored the victory at 29:12. Hogan walked over to the corner to congratulate Savage, then celebrated and posed for the fans.

But when Elizabeth walked over to Hogan for help, the "Hulkster" misunderstood her intent and picked up Elizabeth. Savage rose to his feet, pointed at Hogan, then glared at him angrily. They returned to the dressing room without incident, but two things appear clear: Savage was mad at Hogan for celebrating and posing instead of helping him out. And Savage, who is insanely jealous, was mad at Hogan for grabbing Elizabeth.

Several similar incidents have occurred in the past, but it appears that an unhealable rift has now formed. When Elizabeth is involved, Savage becomes particularly unreasonable.

Of course, a Hogan-Savage rift would be a windfall for the WWF, which could draw its biggest live and TV gate ever for a Savage-Hogan title match at WrestleMania V.

—Rich Konsens

FRITZ VON ERICH

MEMPHIS, TN: AWA World champion Jerry Lawler accused Fritz Von Erich of paying Gen. Skandor Akbar a $100,000 bounty to insure that Lawler would not be able to wrestle World Class champion Kerry Von Erich at SuperClash III.

"It wasn't Kerry, because I know what kind of man he is and I know he wouldn't do something as low as that," Lawler said. "But it wouldn't be below Fritz. I know for a fact that he'll do anything to make sure that his son becomes World champion, and if you ask me, this is going a bit too far."

Lawler was attacked during a title defense here against Jim Garvin, a recent arrival in the CWA. During the match, Akbar sent The Beast into the ring to beat up Lawler. Meanwhile, Garvin ran out of the ring, yelled at Akbar, and accused the manager of costing him a valuable title shot. Garvin then punched Akbar, who still managed to signal toward the dressing room for Kamala. Kamala and The Beast double-teamed Lawler until Garvin joined the fray.

Lawler suffered slight rib damage but never had any intention of pulling out of SuperClash III. He claimed that he learned of the $100,000 bounty from Eric Embry, who is currently wrestling in both the CWA and World Class areas. "There's a man I trust," Lawler said. "If Eric says there was a bounty, there was one. And let me tell you

one thing: When I find out for sure who put it up, there's gonna be hell to pay."

—Randy Swift

ATLANTA, GA: Kendall Windham might already be prepared to turn against tag team partner Dustin Rhodes and join brother Barry Windham in a war with Dustin and his father Dusty.

Reliable sources told "The Tattler" that the Windhams had a private meeting shortly after their verbal duel at father Blackjack Mulligan's home on Thanskgiving. In fact, Barry and Kendall may have already approached NWA officials about a series of matches against Dusty and Dustin.

"This is a potentially explosive situation, but I have no comment about any upcoming matches that have *not,* and I repeat have *not,* been signed," promoter Jim Crockett said.

BARRY, KENDALL, & DUSTIN

"It is unfortunate that the Windham and Rhodes families have split up the way they have, especially since both have such a proud wrestling tradition. But I'm like you: I'm just going to have to wait and see what happens. Maybe the Windhams will get back together, maybe they won't."

—B.W. Foreman □

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INQUIRING

(Continued from page 16)

to see him win the title again, I don't think he'll be as big as he was. There's been a changing of the guard in the WWF; Randy Savage is king, now."

Roy Coyne, Springfield, IL: "The Curt Hennig-Jerry Lawler match, where Hennig lost the AWA belt, was unquestionably the match of the year. Hennig may have lost, but give him credit for going down to Memphis and defending the title in front of Lawler's hometown fans. I was sorry to see Hennig go to the WWF, because he'd have a much greater chance of regaining the AWA title than he does of getting a fair amount of WWF title shots."

Maury Herbert, Hamilton, Ontario: "When Barry Windham turned against his friends, I was shocked! Here was a man who was one of the most well-respected people in wrestling, and he turns his back on the people who helped him most. I was even more disappointed and enraged than Sting and Lex Luger were. Barry may find himself very rich as a member of the Horsemen, but his soul must be empty."

Maria Wendell, Tulsa, OK: "Sting's 45-minute draw with Ric Flair at the Clash of the Champions was particularly memorable because it was unique; there were three judges at ringside. The only problem was that they were supposed to pick a winner, but it ended up being a draw. I would have called the match for Sting, but if Flair were chosen the winner, I would have accepted it. At least it would have been better than a draw."

James Hacker, Manchester, NH: "Who can forget the thrilling spectacle of the Survivor Series? As frightfully bad as it was to see The Powers of Pain adopt Mr. Fuji as their manager, it was equally heartening to watch Slick be punished by Hulk Hogan. Seeing conflicts resolved like that satis-

fies me to no end. No doubt Slick and his minions will remain on the scene for months to come, but Hogan and his friends will continue to fight for justice."

Sam Takis, Mt. Holly, NJ: "You may find this hard to believe, but what I remember most is an AWA card in New Haven, Connecticut, back in June. There were only 42 of us there—that's right, 42—but there was a special feeling among the fans there. Jerry Lawler was there to defend his AWA World title against Curt Hennig, and Madusa Miceli also was on the card.

Madusa Miceli won the AWA World women's title in her first year of wrestling, an accomplishment that earned her Rookie of the Year honors.

Even with so few fans in the stands, these champions gave their all, and for that I am grateful."

Roger Idle, San Antonio, TX: "I always enjoy attending the annual World Class card at the Cotton Bowl, and this year was no exception. This time it was especially exciting because wrestlers from the CWA were on the card with the World Class stars. All things considered, I thought our Texas wrestlers came out on top. World Class doesn't take a back seat to any promotion." □

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SPRING 1987

FALL 1988

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SUMMER 1984/Color pinups: Patera-Gagne, Windham-Bart, Bundy-Garvin, Koloff-Mosca. **Stories include:** Junkyard Dog, Flair-Race, Adams-Garvin, Snuka, Idol, Orndorff.

FALL 1984/Color pinups: Haynes-Nagasaki, Kabuki-Kamala, Steamboat-Slater, Blanchard-Colon. **Stories include:** Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard.

WINTER 1984/Color pinups: Michael Hayes, Flair-McDaniel, Gilbert-Rich, Haynes-Funk. **Stories include:** Kerry Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat.

SPRING 1985/Color pinups: Animal-Funk, Poffo-Gilbert, Nikita-Fernandez, Garvin-McDaniel. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan.

SUMMER 1985/Color pinups: Kerry-Flair, Hawk-Lawler, Funk-Slater, Nikita-Rhodes. **Stories include:** Valentine, Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Flair-Race, Nikita.

FALL 1985/Color pinups: Adams-Kevin Von Erich, Zbyszko-Backlund, Lawler-Brody, Blanchard-T.A. **Stories include:** Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds.

WINTER 1985/Color pinups: Flair-Kevin Von Erich, Hayes-Hawk, Hogan-Fujinami, DiBiase-Roberts. **Stories include:** Orndorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan.

SPRING 1986/Color pinups: Windham-Sullivan, Andre-Bundy, Taylor-Landell, Hernandez-Kerry. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinups: Luger-Barr, Garvin-Flair, Nord-Hawk, Missy-Sunshine. **Stories include:** Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs.

FALL 1986/Color pinups: Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

WINTER 1986/Color pinups: Rude-Von Erich, Khrushchev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. **Stories include:** Supercards, Hogan, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich.

SPRING 1987/Color pinups: Steamboat-Zulu, Roberts-Hillbilly, Morton-Anderson, DiBiase-Hayes. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinups: Roberts-Kamala, Von Erich-Perez, Morton-Koloff, Snuka-Zukhov. **Stories include:** Windham, Elizabeth, Superpowers, Albano, Von Erich.

FALL 1987/Color pinups: Animal-Lane, Bigelow-Inoki, Sullivan-Hall, Ware-Honky Tonk. **Stories include:** Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre.

WINTER 1987/Color pinups: Tama-Santana, Perez-Steamboat, Rhodes-Flair, Gordy-Gilbert. **Stories include:** Luger-Nikita, Express, Hart, Hogan, Hyatt, Lawler.

SPRING 1988/Color pinups: Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMG-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, T.A., War Games.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinups: Von Erich-Roberts, Sting-Rotundo, Misty-Dallas, Reed-Muraco. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan, Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude.

FALL 1988/Color pinups: Santana-Smash, Warlord-Hawk, Adams-Taylor, Hennig-Lawler. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan, DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting, Savage.

WINTER 1988/Color pinups: Kerry, Hayes, OMG, Sting, Luger, Idol, Ultimate, Brody. **Stories include:** Sting, Hyatt, Dusty, Roberts, Ultimate, Powers of Pain.

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SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

Barry Windham

TOP 10

1. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   WWF World champion
2. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   NWA World champion
3. **JERRY LAWLER**
   234, Memphis, TN
   AWA World champion
4. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   No. 2 contender: NWA title
5. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   World Class heavyweight champion
6. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   263, Sweetwater, TX
   U.S. heavyweight champion
7. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   No. 3 contender: WWF title
8. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
   280, Queens, NY
   WWF Intercontinental champion
9. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   No. 3 contender: NWA title
10. **ANDRE THE GIANT**
    497, Grenoble, France
    No. 2 contender: WWF title

TAG TEAMS

1. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   Combined weight: 567 pounds
   NWA World tag team champions
2. **DEMOLITION**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   WWF World tag team champions
3. **PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
   Combined weight: 456 pounds
   AWA World tag team champions
4. **THE FANTASTICS**
   Combined weight: 462 pounds
   U.S. tag team champions
5. **STAN LANE & BOBBY EATON**
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
6. **WARLORD & BARBARIAN**
   Combined weight: 655 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
7. **THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
   Combined weight: 510 pounds
   World Class tag team champions
8. **DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE**
   Combined weight: 461 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
9. **TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
   Combined weight: 484 pounds
   No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
10. **ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN**
    Combined weight: 473 pounds
    CWA tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**BARRY WINDHAM**, *263, Sweetwater, TX*
2—**LEX LUGER**, *268, Chicago, IL*
3—**RICK STEINER**, *248, Detroit, MI*
4—**STING**, *260, Venice Beach, CA*
5—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**, *368, Mt. Laurel, NJ*
6—**DUSTY RHODES**, *302, Austin, TX*
7—**RON SIMMONS**, *260, Perry, GA*
8—**MIKE ROTUNDO**, *245, Syracuse, NY*
9—**STEVE WILLIAMS**, *265, Norman, OK*
10—**EDDIE GILBERT**, *222, Lexington, TN*

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

1—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**, *280, Queens, NY*
2—**ANDRE THE GIANT**, *497, Grenoble, France*
3—**HULK HOGAN**, *302, Venice Beach, CA*
4—**BIG BOSSMAN**, *348, Cobb County, GA*
5—**BAD NEWS BROWN**, *280, New York, NY*
6—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**, *255, Memphis, TN*
7—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**, *280, Glens Falls, NY*
8—**TED DiBIASE**, *247, Omaha, NB*
9—**HERCULES**, *255, Tampa, FL*
10—**CURT HENNIG**, *235, Minneapolis, MN*

AWA

World Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1—**RONNIE GARVIN**, *231, Montreal, Quebec*
2—**KERRY VON ERICH**, *260, Denton, TX*
3—**WAHOO McDANIEL**, *280, Midland, TX*
4—**GREG GAGNE**, *220, Robbinsdale, MN*
5—**COL. DeBEERS**, *248, Cape Town, South Africa*
6—**JIM GARVIN**, *235, Tampa, FL*
7—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**, *310, Parris Island, SC*
8—**JEFF JARRETT**, *200, Hendersonville, TN*
9—**MANDO GUERRERO**, *225, Mexico City, Mexico*
10—**ROBERT GIBSON**, *225, Pensacola, FL*

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX

1—**ICEMAN PARSONS**, *245, St. Louis, MO*
2—**JERRY LAWLER**, *234, Memphis, TN*
3—**JEFF JARRETT**, *200, Hendersonville, TN*
4—**ERIC EMBRY**, *225, Lexington, KY*
5—**SUPER BLACK NINJA**, *245, Tokyo, Japan*
6—**KEVIN VON ERICH**, *235, Denton, TX*
7—**THE BEAST**, *375, Botswana*
8—**STEVE COX**, *240, Portsmouth, VA*
9—**MICHAEL HAYES**, *255, Marietta, GA*
10—**KAMALA**, *360, Uganda*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

For period ended December 7, 1988

MOST POPULAR

1. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
2. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
3. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
4. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
   280, Queens, NY
   Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
5. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
6. **HACKSAW DUGGAN**
   280, Glens Falls, NY
   Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
7. **RICK STEINER**
   248, Detroit, MI
   Last month: unrated
8. **DUSTY RHODES**
   302, Austin, TX
   Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
9. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
10. **JAKE ROBERTS**
    246, Stone Mountain, GA
    Last month: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1. **BIG BOSSMAN**
   348, Cobb County, GA
   Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
2. **ANDRE THE GIANT**
   497, Grenoble, France
   Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
3. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
4. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   263, Sweetwater, TX
   Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
5. **RICK RUDE**
   246, Robbinsdale, MN
   Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
6. **TED DiBIASE**
   247, Omaha, NE
   Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
7. **THE HONKY TONK MAN**
   255, Memphis, TN
   Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
8. **STEVE WILLIAMS**
   265, Norman, OK
   Last month: unrated
9. **ROBERT FULLER**
   238, Dyresburg, TN
   Last month: unrated
10. **DINO BRAVO**
    246, Montreal, Quebec
    Last month: unrated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RIC FLAIR ..... 93 points
2—RANDY SAVAGE ..... 90 points
3—JERRY LAWLER ..... 64 points
4—LEX LUGER ..... 63 points
5—STING ..... 49 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS ..... 87 points
2—DEMOLITION ..... 82 points
3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE ..... 74 points
4—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ... 59 points
5—THE FANTASTICS ..... 55 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
MAKHAN SINGH
380, Saginaw, MI

1—**JOHNNY SMITH**
235, Manchester, England
2—**LANCE IDOL**
225, Hollywood, CA
3—**BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
4—**CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
5—**STEVE DiSALVO**
298, Boston, MA
6—**VULKAN SINGH**
300, Billings, MT
7—**GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan
8—**DON MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
9—**STEVE BLACKMAN**
250, Pittsburgh, PA
10—**BEEF WELLINGTON**
225, Lloydmaster, Alberta

CWA

CWA Champion:
BRIAN LEE
242, St. Petersburg, FL

1—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
2—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, AUS
3—**WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
4—**ROBERT FULLER**
255, Dyresburg, TN
5—**SID VICIOUS**
290, parts unknown
6—**JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL
7—**BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
8—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
9—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
10—**TRACY SMOTHERS**
228, Springfield, TN

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TOM PRICHARD
220, Houston, TX

1—**BLACK BART**
261, Pampa, TX
2—**DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
3—**DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, MX
4—**TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
5—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
6—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
7—**DOUG FURNAS**
265, Commerce, OK
8—**JOHNNY RICH**
235, Hendersonville, TN
9—**WILLIE B. HERT**
238, El Paso, TX
10—**SCOTT ARMSTRONG**
212, Marietta, GA

ATLANTIC COAST

Atlantic Coast Champion:
TITLE VACANT
To be filled in upcoming tourney

1—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
2—**BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
3—**ROBERT GIBSON**
225, Pensacola, FL
4—**MITCH SNOW**
220, Mooresville, NC
5—**RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN
6—**RICK GIBSON**
238, Pensacola, FL
7—**NELSON ROYAL**
222, Mooresville, NC
8—**SCOTT ARMSTRONG**
212, Marietta, GA
9—**TODD CHAMPION**
264, Los Angeles, CA
10—**DOUG SOMERS**
245, Minneapolis, MN

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

The fight for survival. The Survivor Series, though only in its second year, has already become a Thanksgiving tradition. For three hours, 50 of the best wrestlers in the WWF go head to head in nearly non-stop combat with no titles on the line. It's a test of endurance, strength, cunning, and wrestling ability. Columnist Matt Brock calls it "the WWF's All-Star Game."

But the last remaining man in the ring for each match wasn't necessarily the wrestler that turned in the most impressive performance. Avoiding too much ring activity is a good way to ensure that you'll be around at the end; wrestling all-out near the beginning of the match is a good way to ensure that you'll spend a good part of the evening lounging in the locker room.

With this in mind, we've compiled a list of 10 wrestlers that turned in the most impressive performances in the Survivor Series. The list, of course, is totally subjective, and is based on a poll of the editors of *Sports Review Wrestling*. An analysis follows.

SURVIVOR SERIES
1—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
2—THE CONQUISTADORS
3—JAKE ROBERTS
4—THE POWERS OF PAIN
5—CURT HENNIG
6—RANDY SAVAGE
7—AKEEM
8—HULK HOGAN
9—RON BASS
10—ANDRE THE GIANT

Ultimate Warrior

The Ultimate Warrior overcame a two-on-one disadvantage to win the first event for his team. He used an axhandle to pin **Ron Bass** and, 25 seconds later, crushed **Greg Valentine** with a double-axhandle. Earlier in the match, the Warrior swung the momentum to his team's favor with a stunning clothesline of Bass and a bodyslam of **The Honky Tonk Man.**

The Conquistadors may have been the biggest surprise of the entire evening. They went the distance—42 minutes and 18 seconds—in the tag team event before **Mr. Fuji** led to their downfall and a victory by **The Powers of Pain.** The Conquistadors managed to kick out of 15 near-pins and actually had **Warlord** and **Barbarian** on the run when Fuji interfered.

Jake "The Snake" Roberts was truly a survivor. Left at a four-on-one disadvantage for the final nine minutes of the third match, Roberts valiantly fought off **Rick Rude, Dino Bravo, Curt Hennig,** and **Andre the Giant,** but couldn't fight off the inevitable. In fact, Roberts was in for a good portion of the opening 21 minutes and took a serious pounding. But he showed determination and courage. It was an amazing effort.

The Powers of Pain came out on the long end of a duel with **Demolition** early in their match, changed the face of WWF wrestling when they befriended **Mr. Fuji,** and won the longest—and most exciting—match of the card ... **Curt Hennig** used the Survivor Series to establish himself in the WWF for the first time. He stayed in the ring for five minutes early in the main event, dominated Roberts before getting dominated by Jake later on, and scored the winning pin.

Randy Savage had to take care of himself while **Hulk Hogan** was handcuffed to the ring ropes in the main event. Hogan scored the winning pin, but Savage made it possible. Another survivor ... **Akeem** pinned **Hillbilly Jim** early in the match and stood his ground while three men tried to knock him to the canvas. Then he set up **Big Bossman's** pin of **Koko B. Ware** and played a large role in the **Elizabeth**-Hogan-**Slick**-Bossman incident.

Hogan saved Elizabeth and then endured incredible punishment when he was handcuffed to the ropes. By the time he unlocked himself, Hogan was so angry, **King Haku** didn't have a prayer ... **Ron Bass** lasted far longer than anybody expected in the first match. He pinned **Sam Houston,** weakened **Brutus Beefcake,** and nearly survived an onslaught by Ultimate Warrior ... **Andre the Giant** was dominant. He sacrificed himself by choking Roberts for more than five seconds, earning a disqualification; but in doing so, he weakened Roberts. Before leaving the ring, Andre headbutted Roberts to the canvas, setting him up for the final pin.

A new federation. The Atlantic Coast Wrestling group, this month's entry in the revolving ratings category, is running cards in the Carolinas, West Virginia, and parts of Tennessee. They plan to wrestle mostly in the areas covered by **Jim Crockett** Promotions when it was a regional operation. Atlantic Coast currently has no heavyweight singles or tag team champions, but plans to hold tournaments for both. **Nelson Royal** is the junior heavyweight champion.

That's all for now. We'd like to hear what you thought about our Survivor Series ratings, and we welcome any suggestions you might have about our ratings and "Ratings Analysis." The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Sports Review Wrestling;* Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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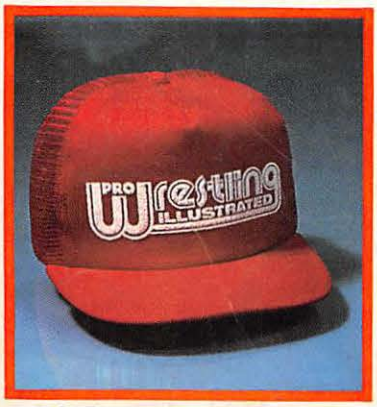

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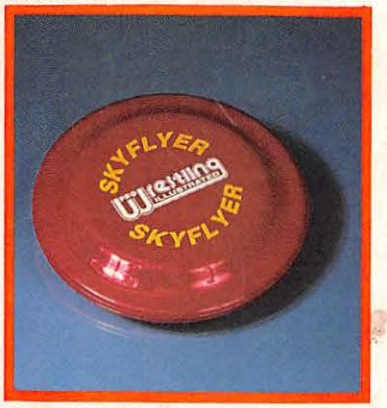

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